Bureau of Land Management
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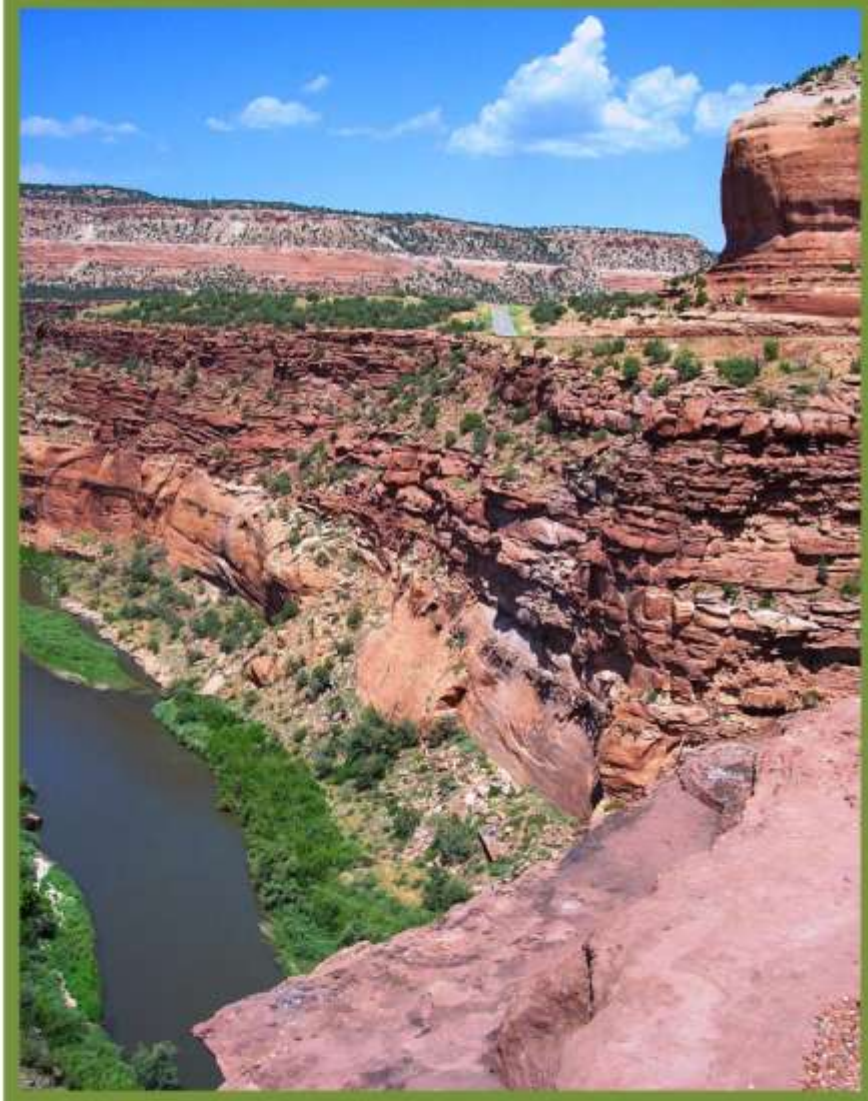

Final

Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Report

for the BLM **Uncompahgre Planning Area**

FINAL WILD AND SCENIC RIVER ELIGIBILITY REPORT

FOR THE

BLM UNCOMPAHGRE PLANNING AREA

PREPARED BY:
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
UNCOMPAHGRE FIELD OFFICE, COLORADO

JUNE 2010

BARBARA SHARROW
UNCOMPAHGRE FIELD MANAGER
MONTROSE, COLORADO

To have some parts flowing free again...

With deer grazing on its banks...

Ducks and geese raising their young
in the backwaters...

Eddies and twists and turns for canoeists...

And fishing opportunities such as Lewis
and Clark enjoyed...

Would be the finest possible tribute
to the men of the Expedition,
and a priceless gift for our children.

~ Stephen Ambrose, Undaunted Courage ~

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RIVER SEGMENT MAPS

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACRONYM OR ABBREVIATION	COMPLETE PHRASE
ACEC	Area of Critical Environmental Concern
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
cfs	cubic feet per second (water flow measurement)
CNHP	Colorado Natural Heritage Program
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
FWS	U.S Fish and Wildlife Service
NCA	National Conservation Area
NE	northeast
NF	National Forest
NMPM	New Mexico Principal Meridian (longitude 106° 53' 40")
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NW	northwest
NWSRS	National Wild and Scenic River System
ORVs	Outstandingly Remarkable Values
PM	Principal Meridian (Public Land Survey System)
R	Range (Public Land Survey System)
RMP	Resource Management Plan
S	Section (Public Land Survey System)
SE	southeast
SW	southwest
T	Township (Public Land Survey System)
UFO	Uncompahgre Field Office

ACRONYM OR ABBREVIATION	COMPLETE PHRASE
USFS	United States Forest Service
VRM	Visual Resource Management
WSA	Wilderness Study Area
WSR	Wild and Scenic Rivers
WSRA	Wild and Scenic Rivers Act

Executive Summary

Introduction

The Bureau of Land Management Uncompahgre Field Office is conducting an inventory and analysis within the Uncompahgre planning area, as well as the portion of the Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area within the field office, to determine the eligibility and suitability of rivers and streams for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The evaluation is a required component of preparing the Uncompahgre Resource Management Plan (RMP). This report details the completed river inventory and final eligibility determinations.

Determination of Wild and Scenic River Eligibility

The initial step in determining eligibility was to generate an inventory of all rivers and streams within the evaluation area. Every known river with a perennial or intermittent flow regime was identified, using a variety of Bureau of Land Management and other data sources. Some waterways were further segmented based upon differences in level of development, physiographic character, land status, or the existence of in-channel diversions or dams.

The river segments were then evaluated to determine whether they meet the dual criteria of being free-flowing and possessing one or more outstandingly remarkable values, as defined in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Eligible river segments were preliminarily classified as wild, scenic, or recreational, based on water quality and level of human development along the river corridor.

Eligibility Results

During the inventory phase, 174 river segments were identified for review. After evaluating these river segments, 22 rivers separated into 33 segments were determined to be free-flowing and possessed one or more outstandingly remarkable values necessary for Wild and Scenic River eligibility. In addition, the San Juan Public Lands Draft Land Management Plan identifies a segment of the Dolores River as eligible. The northernmost 11.8-mile downstream portion of this segment is managed by the Uncompahgre Field Office and will be evaluated by the field office during the suitability phase, resulting in a total of 34 eligible river segments.

Management constraints were not considered during the eligibility phase, but will be assessed during the suitability analysis. This next phase of the Wild and Scenic Rivers review process will occur during development of the Uncompahgre RMP and associated Environmental Impact Statement. A final determination of suitability will be issued in the RMP Record of Decision.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES FROM DRAFT TO FINAL ELIGIBILITY REPORT

The Final Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Report for the BLM Uncompahgre Planning Area is the culmination of field assessments and data analysis conducted by UFO staff, review of free-flowing character and outstandingly remarkable value (ORV) determinations by the Colorado Division of Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Colorado Natural Heritage Program, and review and comment on the Draft Eligibility Report by the public, interest groups, and government and non-government agencies. Comments regarding suitability (outlined in Appendix D on page 149) were not considered, but will be carried forward to the Suitability phase.

Fall Creek (within the San Miguel Hydrologic Unit) was the only stream segment identified as eligible in the draft report to be reclassified as not eligible in the final report, due to an inability to confirm that the segment is occupied habitat for the Canada Lynx *(Lynx canadensis)*.

Several animal species, including the Canada Lynx, the Gunnison sage grouse *(Centrocercus minimus)*, and the yellow-billed cuckoo *(Coccyzus americanus),* were removed from the Wildlife ORV of some river segments because the BLM was unable to verify the segments as occupied habitat.

In addition, plant species and communities were removed from a number of Vegetation ORVs due to clarification of global ranking by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program. The Colorado hookless cactus *(Sclerocactus glaucus)* was removed from the Vegetation ORV of four river segments because the species is not uniquely dependent on rivers and occurs outside of river corridors. In most cases, an ORV was supported by other qualifying plant species, while in others the removal of a species eliminated the ORV.

In some instances, water quality issues affected the preliminary classification of a segment. UFO staff recently learned that certain tributary stream segments along the Gunnison River previously thought to be on the Colorado 303(d) list for impairment due to excessive selenium were exempted based on segment descriptions in the Colorado Department of Public Health ***Classifications and Numeric Standards for Gunnison and Lower Dolores River Basins***. The stream segments affected by this are listed in Table ES-1 under the Lower Gunnison Hydrologic Unit.

Table ES-1 summarizes the changes made to the Draft Eligibility Report to produce this Final Eligibility Report.

Table ES-1 Summary of Changes from Draft to Final WSR Eligibility Report

HYDROLOGIC UNIT	RIVER SEGMENT	CHANGES FROM DRAFT TO FINAL ELIGIBILITY
LOWER GUNNISON	**Cottonwood Creek**	• Omitted statement that segment is on Colorado State 303(d) impaired water quality list for excessive selenium. Preliminary Classification remains Scenic.
	Dry Fork Escalante Segment 2	• Omitted statement that segment is on Colorado State 303(d) impaired water quality list for excessive selenium. Preliminary Classification remains Recreational.
	Escalante Creek Segment 1	• Omitted statement that segment is on Colorado State 303(d) impaired water quality list for excessive selenium. Preliminary classification remains Scenic. • Removed Colorado hookless cactus *(Sclerocactus glaucus)* from Vegetation ORV due to specie's lack of unique dependence on river and occurrence outside of river corridor. Vegetation ORV remains based upon other vegetation values.
	Escalante Creek Segment 2	• Omitted statement that segment is on Colorado State 303(d) impaired water quality list for excessive selenium. Preliminary classification remains Recreational. • Removed Eastwood's monkeyflower *(Mimulus eastwoodiae)* from Vegetation ORV, due to an inability to document occupied habitat within the segment. • Removed Colorado hookless cactus *(Sclerocactus glaucus)* from Vegetation ORV due to specie's lack of unique dependence on river and occurrence outside of river corridor. Vegetation ORV remains based upon other vegetation values.
	Gunnison River Segment 2	• Omitted statement that segment is on Colorado State 303(d) impaired water quality list for excessive selenium. Preliminary Classification remains Recreational.
	Gunnison River Segment 3	• Added statement to preliminary classification rationale to document that a draft Total Maximum Daily Load Plan has been prepared for this segment which, if implemented, would improve water quality. Preliminary Classification remains Recreational. • Removed Colorado hookless cactus *(Sclerocactus glaucus)* from Vegetation ORV due to specie's lack of unique dependence on river and occurrence outside of river corridor. Vegetation ORV remains based upon other vegetation values.
	Monitor Creek	• Omitted statement that segment is on Colorado State 303(d) impaired water quality list for excessive selenium. • Changed Preliminary Classification from Scenic to Wild.

HYDROLOGIC UNIT	RIVER SEGMENT	CHANGES FROM DRAFT TO FINAL ELIGIBILITY
LOWER GUNNISON (continued)	**Potter Creek**	• Omitted statement that segment is on Colorado State 303(d) impaired water quality list for excessive selenium. • Changed Preliminary Classification from Scenic to Wild.
	Rose Creek	• Omitted statement that segment is on Colorado State 303(d) impaired water quality list for excessive selenium. • Changed Preliminary Classification from Scenic to Wild.
	Roubideau Creek Segment 1	• Omitted statement that segment is on Colorado State 303(d) impaired water quality list for excessive selenium. • Changed Preliminary Classification from Scenic to Wild.
	Roubideau Creek Segment 2	• Omitted statement that segment is on Colorado State 303(d) impaired water quality list for excessive selenium. Preliminary Classification remains Scenic. • Removed Colorado hookless cactus *(Sclerocactus glaucus)* from Vegetation ORV due to specie's lack of unique dependence on river and occurrence outside of river corridor. Vegetation ORV remains based upon other vegetation values.
SAN MIGUEL	**Beaver Creek**	• Removed sandbar willow-strapleaf willow *(Salix exigua-Salix ligulifolia)* riparian shrubland from Vegetation ORV due to change in ranking from globally imperiled (G2G3) to globally vulnerable (G3). Vegetation ORV remains based upon other vegetation values.
	Dry Creek	• Removed Wildlife ORV due to an inability to document occupied habitat for Gunnison sage grouse *(Centrocercus minimus)*. Segment remains eligible based on Scenic and Geologic ORVs.
	***Fall Creek**	• Withdrew Fall Creek from eligibility due to an inability to document occupied habitat for Canada Lynx *(Lynx canadensis)*, invalidating Wildlife ORV.
	San Miguel River Segment 1	• Removed Canada lynx *(Lynx canadensis)* and yellow-billed cuckoo *(Coccyzus americanus)* from Wildlife ORV due to an inability to document occupied habitat. Wildlife ORV remains based upon other wildlife values.
	San Miguel River Segment 2	• Removed yellow-billed cuckoo *(Coccyzus americanus)* from Wildlife ORV due to an inability to document occupied habitat. Wildlife ORV remains based upon other wildlife values. • Modified designation in Wildlife ORV from Important Bird Area to Southwest Canyon Riparian Habitat.

HYDROLOGIC UNIT	RIVER SEGMENT	CHANGES FROM DRAFT TO FINAL ELIGIBILITY
SAN MIGUEL (continued)	**San Miguel River Segment 3**	• Removed Canada lynx *(Lynx canadensis)* and yellow-billed cuckoo *(Coccyzus americanus)* from Wildlife ORV due to an inability to document occupied habitat. Wildlife ORV remains based upon other wildlife values. • Modified designation in Wildlife ORV from Important Bird Area to Southwest Canyon Riparian Habitat.
	San Miguel Segment 5	• Changed ranking of New Mexico privet (*Forestieria pubescens*) riparian shrubland from critically imperiled globally (G1G2) to globally imperiled (G2).
	San Miguel Segment 6	• Changed ranking of New Mexico privet (*Forestieria pubescens*) riparian shrubland from critically imperiled globally (G1G2) to globally imperiled (G2).
LOWER DOLORES	**Lower Dolores River**	• Changed segment name to Lower Dolores River to distinguish from Upper Dolores river segments. • Added statement to Preliminary Classification rationale documenting that a water quality monitoring plan is being initiated to determine concentration and source of total recoverable iron in Dolores River, and develop remedial actions if necessary. Preliminary Classification remains Scenic.
	Tabeguache Creek Segment 2	• Changed ranking of New Mexico privet (*Forestieria pubescens*) riparian shrubland from critically imperiled globally (G1G2) to globally imperiled (G2).
UPPER DOLORES	**Dolores River Segment 2**	• Added statement to Preliminary Classification rationale documenting that a water quality monitoring plan is being initiated to determine concentration and source of total recoverable iron in Dolores River, and develop remedial actions if necessary. Preliminary Classification remains Recreational. • Changed ranking of New Mexico privet (*Forestieria pubescens*) riparian shrubland from critically imperiled globally (G1G2) to globally imperiled (G2).
	Ice Lake Creek	• Removed Vegetation ORV due to change in ranking of sandbar willow-strapleaf willow *(Salix exigua-Salix ligulifolia)* riparian shrubland from globally imperiled (G2G3) to globally vulnerable (G3). Segment remains eligible based on Scenic ORV.
	La Sal Creek Segment 1	• Changed ranking of boxelder-river birch (*Acer negundo-Betula occidentalis*) riparian woodland from critically imperiled globally (G1G2) to globally imperiled (G2).

HYDROLOGIC UNIT	RIVER SEGMENT	CHANGES FROM DRAFT TO FINAL ELIGIBILITY
UPPER DOLORES (continued)	**La Sal Creek Segment 2**	• Changed ranking of boxelder-river birch (*Acer negundo-Betula occidentalis*) riparian woodland from critically imperiled globally (G1G2) to globally imperiled (G2).
	La Sal Creek Segment 3	• Changed ranking of boxelder-river birch (*Acer negundo-Betula occidentalis*) riparian woodland from critically imperiled globally (G1G2) to globally imperiled (G2).
	Lion Creek	• Removed sandbar willow-strapleaf willow *(Salix exigua-Salix ligulifolia)* riparian shrubland from Vegetation ORV due to ranking change from globally imperiled (G2G3) to globally vulnerable (G3). Vegetation ORV remains based upon other vegetation values. • Changed ranking of boxelder-river birch riparian woodland (*Acer negundo-Betula occidentalis*) from critically imperiled globally (G1G2) to globally imperiled (G2).
	Spring Creek	• Removed sandbar willow-strapleaf willow *(Salix exigua-Salix ligulifolia)* riparian shrubland from Vegetation ORV due to ranking change from globally imperiled (G2G3) to globally vulnerable (G3). Vegetation ORV remains based upon other vegetation values. • Changed ranking of boxelder-river birch riparian woodland *(Acer negundo-Betula occidentalis)* from critically imperiled globally (G1G2) to globally imperiled (G2).

CHAPTER 1
Introduction

This Wild and Scenic Rivers (WSR) eligibility report details the results of an evaluation of waters within the Uncompahgre planning area and portions of the Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area (NCA) for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (NWSRS). Segments identified as ***eligible*** in the final report will be further evaluated for ***suitability*** during preparation of the Uncompahgre RMP.

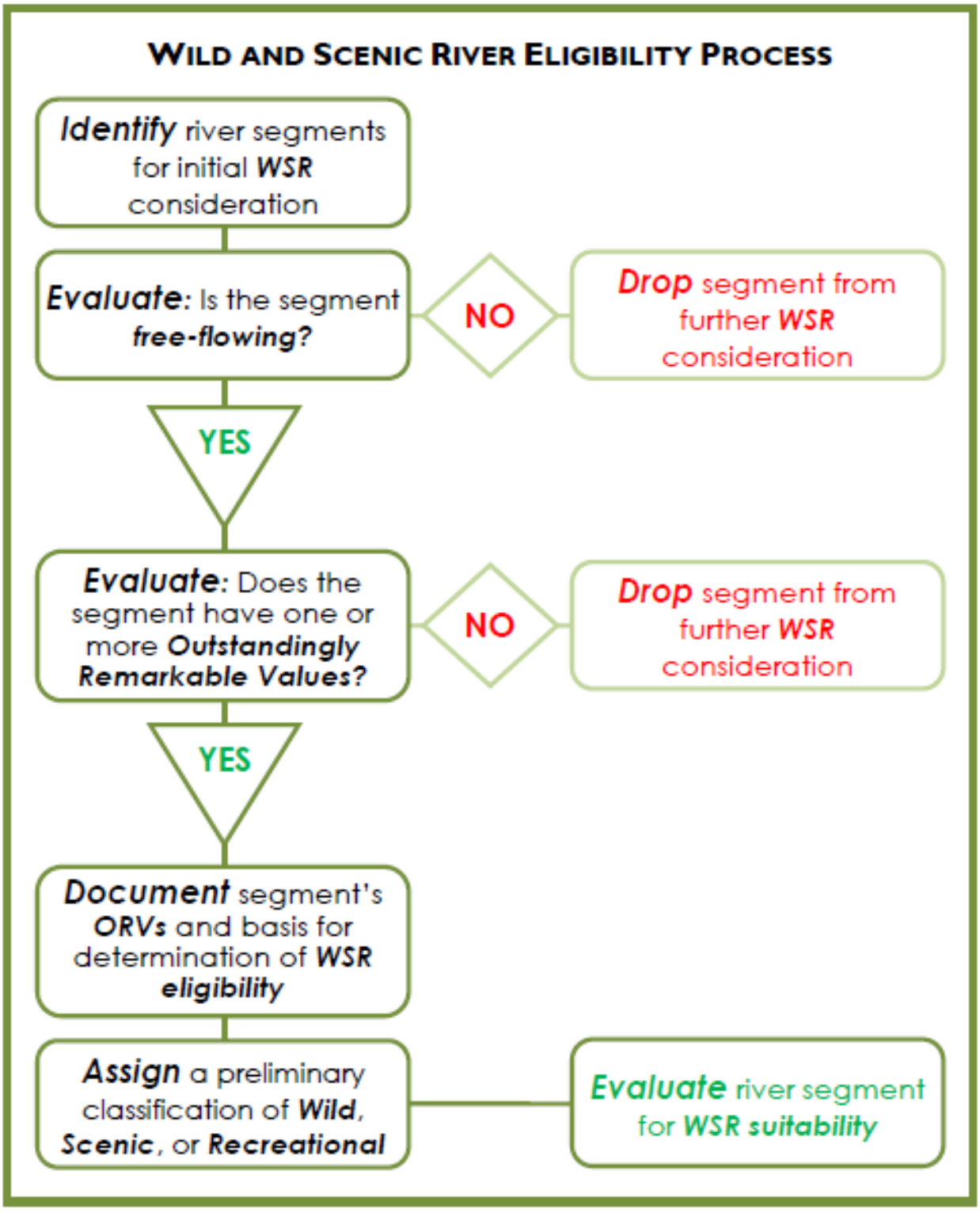
A team of resource specialists from the Uncompahgre Field Office (UFO) identified potential river and stream segments on public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Using a standardized set of criteria, the team evaluated each segment to determine whether or not it was (1) free-flowing and (2) possessed any of several ***outstandingly remarkable values*** (ORVs) required for eligibility. Eligible segments were then assigned a preliminary classification of ***wild***, ***scenic,*** or ***recreational***, as defined in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (WSRA).

1.1 WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT

Congress enacted the WSRA (Public Law 90-542; 16 U.S.C. 1271 et seq.) on October 2, 1968 to address the need for a national system of river protection. The legislation was the outgrowth of a nationwide conservation movement that took place during the 1950s and 1960s, as well as a response to the numerous diversion projects and dams constructed along American waterways during the 1930s through 1960s. The WSRA stipulates that the free-flowing condition, water quality, and ORVs of selected waterways should be preserved and protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations. Since 1968, the WSRA has been amended a number of times, primarily in order to designate additional rivers and to authorize the study of other rivers for possible inclusion.

WSR designation affords certain legal protections from development. For example, the construction of dams or other federally assisted water projects that might negatively affect a designated river's values is not permitted. When private lands are involved, the adjacent federal land management agency works with local governments and property owners to develop protective measures.

As of the 40th anniversary of the WSRA in 2008, some 166 river segments totaling more than 11,000 miles in 38 states and Puerto Rico have been granted protective status through the NWSRS. These nationally recognized waterways make up a little more than one-quarter of one percent of the nation's rivers, and provide a valuable network of natural and cultural resources, scenic beauty, and recreational opportunities.



1.2 WILD AND SCENIC RIVER ELIGIBILITY PROCESS

1.3 RATIONALE FOR STUDY OF UNCOMPAHGRE PLANNING AREA RIVERS

Section 5(d)(1) of the WSRA requires federal agencies to evaluate potential wild and scenic rivers when preparing land and resource management plans: "In all planning for the use and development of water and related land resources, consideration shall be given by all federal agencies involved to potential national wild, scenic, and recreational river areas."

The BLM is currently developing an RMP for BLM-administered lands within the Uncompahgre planning area. The Uncompahgre RMP will supersede two existing RMPs under which the UFO has been managed for the past two decades. Neither the 1984 San Juan/San Miguel RMP nor the 1989 Uncompahgre Basin RMP included a WSR evaluation. Public scoping for the Uncompahgre RMP occurred during the winter of 2009-2010. The scoping period included an opportunity for public review and comment on the draft eligibility report. (See Appendix D on page 142.)

1.4 INVENTORY AND EVALUATION AREA

The UFO manages over 880,000 surface acres of public land in Delta, Gunnison, Mesa, Montrose, Ouray, and San Miguel counties, Colorado. The area inventoried and evaluated for this WSR eligibility report encompasses approximately 787,640 surface acres and associated waters within the UFO boundary. Waters within the newly designated Dominguez-Escalante NCA fall within the UFO boundary and were included in this evaluation. However, because the NCA will be managed under a separate RMP, the WSR inventory and evaluation area is referred to as the ***WSR evaluation area*** in this report.

The WSR evaluation area does not include the Gunnison Gorge NCA, which also operates under a separate RMP. The final Gunnison Gorge NCA RMP includes a WSR finding for its rivers. (See Map 1.7 on page 1 for an overview of the area evaluated in this report.)

1.5 WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS STUDY PROCESS

The study and designation of watercourses under the WSRA consists of a multi-step process: ***eligibility*** → ***suitability*** → ***congressional action***. The eligibility phase of the process is shown in the flowchart on page 2. It begins with the identification of potentially eligible river segments (as described in Chapter 2 on page 7). Stream segments are then evaluated to determine if they meet the criteria set forth in the WSRA. They must be free-flowing and possess one or more ORVs (as described in Chapter 3 beginning on page 8).

The river ***study area*** runs the length of an identified river segment, and includes the river and its immediate environment, as well as a boundary that extends one-quarter mile on either side of the river channel. Segments determined to be eligible are preliminarily classified in one of three categories—***wild***, ***scenic,*** or ***recreational***—based upon water quality and the level of human development along the river corridor. This report details the UFO's findings, as well as the basis for designating a particular river segment as eligible (as described in Chapter 5 beginning on page 19).

Eligible river segments are then carried forward to a suitability phase (as described in Chapter 6 on page 110). Results of the suitability analysis are included as part of the Draft RMP/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Proposed RMP/Final EIS. Final determination of suitability will be documented in the Approved Uncompahgre RMP and Record of Decision. Following completion of the Uncompahgre RMP, the BLM will forward the results of the suitability determination to Congress for consideration. Congress (and sometimes the Secretary of Interior) has the final authority to designate a river segment as part of the NWSRS.

1.6 PROTECTIVE MANAGEMENT

Eligible river segments are afforded interim protection until a suitability analysis is completed and an RMP Record of Decision is issued. These measures are intended to protect the values for which a river was determined eligible, and preserve the integrity of the preliminary classification. Table 1-1 below details the interim protection afforded eligible segments during an agency's planning process.

While congressionally authorized study rivers are protected under the WSRA, agency-identified rivers receive protection through other authorities, including the National Environmental Policy Act, the Federal Lands Policy and Management Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Endangered Species Act. For example, potential effects on the free-flowing condition, water quality, and ORVs of eligible river segments must be considered when proposing federal or federally permitted actions subject to the National Environmental Policy Act.

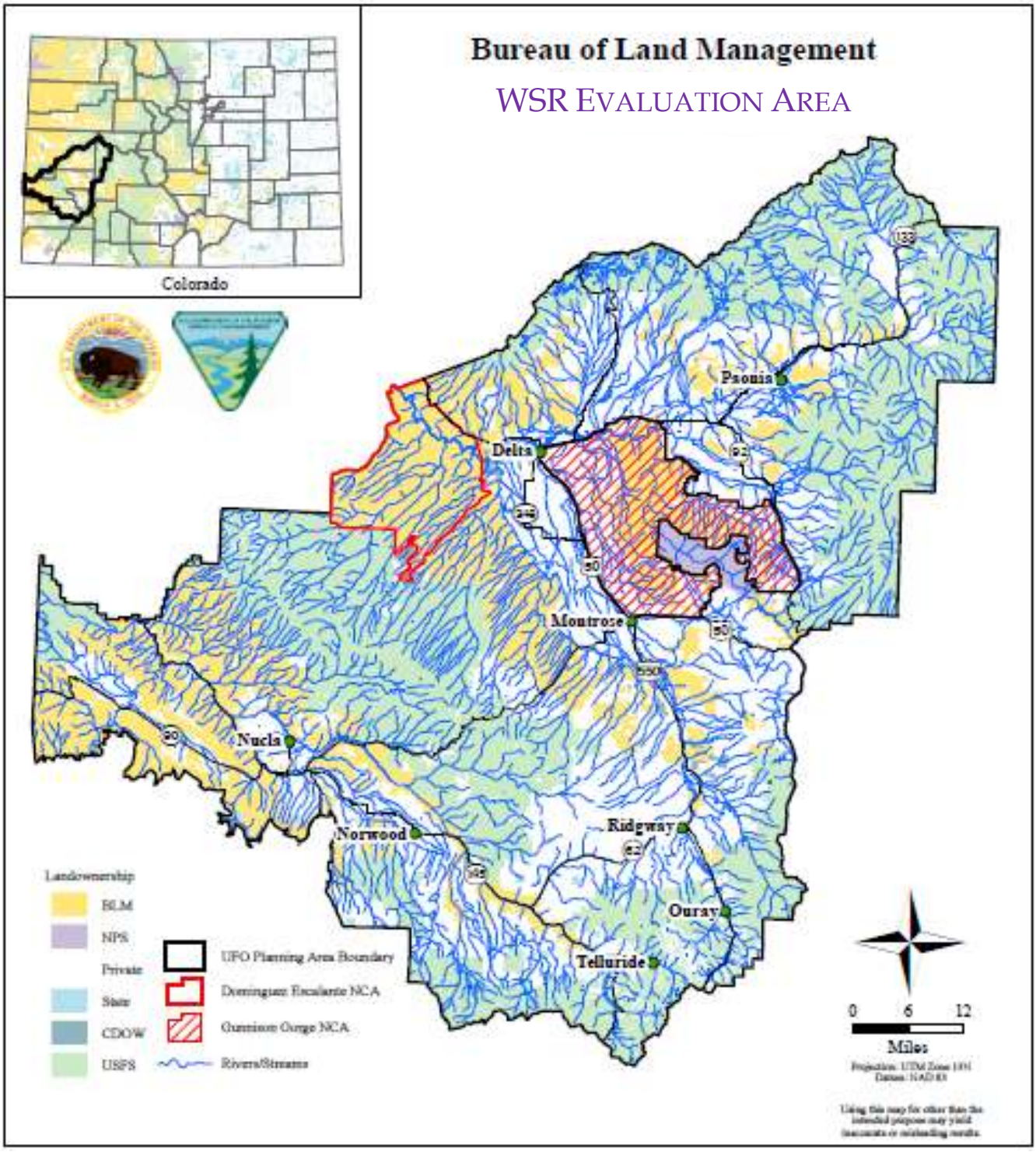
Once a Record of Decision is approved, segments identified as not suitable will revert to management according to the prevailing RMP. Suitable rivers will be managed to maintain their free-flowing character and ORVs in support of the alternative selected in the Final RMP, until released from consideration by Congress.

Table 1-1 Interim Protection for Agency-Identified WSR Eligible Streams

ISSUE	PROTECTION UNDER ELIGIBLE DESIGNATION
Study Boundary	• Minimum of one-quarter mile from the ordinary high water mark on both sides of the active channel • Boundary may include adjacent areas needed to protect identified values
Preliminary Classification	• Wild, scenic, and recreational classes as defined by statute • Manage segment at preliminary classification
Private Land: • Administration • Acquisition	• Affect private land uses through voluntary partnership with state/local governments and landowners • No regulatory authority • No ability to acquire interest in land under the Act's authority prior to designation
Water Resources Project	• River's free-flowing condition protected to the extent of other agency authorities

ISSUE	PROTECTION UNDER ELIGIBLE DESIGNATION
Land Disposition	• Agency discretion to retain lands within river corridor in federal ownership
Mining and Mineral Leasing	• Protect free flow, water quality, and ORVs through other agency authorities
Actions of Other Agencies	• Affect actions of other agencies through voluntary partnership
Protect Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs)	• No regulatory authority conferred by Act; agency protects through other authorities • Section 11(b)(1): limited financial or other assistance to encourage participation in the acquisition, protection, and management of river resources

Source: Interagency Wild and Scenic River Coordinating Council, Wild and Scenic Rivers Study Process



1.7 GENERALIZED DRAINAGE PATTERN IN THE WSR EVALUATION AREA

CHAPTER 2
Inventory of Uncompahgre Rivers

The initial step in the WSR eligibility process is to identify river segments. All rivers and streams with either a perennial or intermittent flow regime located within the WSR evaluation area were considered during the eligibility review. Additionally, some river segments were divided for evaluation purposes due to differences in level of development, physiographic character, land status, or the existence of in-channel diversions or dams.

2.1 Field Assessments

A team comprised of UFO resource specialists from a variety of disciplines (listed in Chapter 7, Appendix A on page 115) conducted field assessments during the 2006 field season, and compiled a comprehensive list of 174 river and stream segments to be evaluated for potential eligibility. (See the Uncompahgre Rivers Inventory in Chapter 7, Appendix C beginning on page 119.) A detailed description of the methods used for river segment identification can be found in BLM Manual 8351, Wild and Scenic Rivers—Policy and Program Direction for Identification, Evaluation, and Management (BLM Manual 8351).

2.2 Data Analysis

The interdisciplinary team utilized multiple data sources to delineate segments and boundaries, including:

- United States Geological Survey National Hydrography Datasets
- United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service 4th and 5th-level Hydrologic Units
- Colorado Land Ownership data
- BLM enterprise data
- a Named Streams dataset prepared by resource staff
- UFO river and riparian inventory and monitoring datasets
- the accumulated knowledge of UFO resource specialists regarding field conditions

CHAPTER 3
Eligibility Criteria

Section 16(b) of the WSRA defines a river as "a flowing body of water or estuary or a section, portion, or tributary thereof, including rivers, streams, creeks, runs, kills, rills, and small lakes." According to the WSRA, a river segment must be both free-flowing and possess one or more river-related outstandingly remarkable values to be eligible for the WSRS. Determinations are based exclusively on those portions of a river managed by the UFO, and because such determinations require professional judgment, the collective knowledge and experience of the interdisciplinary team is critical to the success of the eligibility process.

BLM Manual 8351 provides guidance for determining the eligibility of segments identified in the initial inventory and identification phase. Jurisdictional and management constraints will be addressed during the subsequent suitability analysis (described in Chapter 6 on page 110).

3.1 Determination of Free-Flowing Character

As defined in the WSRA, a free-flowing water body is characterized as "existing or flowing in natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip-rapping, or other modification of the waterway." The interdisciplinary team applied this definition, as well as guidance contained in BLM Manual 8351, when evaluating a segment's free-flowing character.

Small dams, diversion works, or other minor structures along a river's course do not automatically disqualify it from consideration for potential inclusion in the NWSRS. In authorizing the WSRA, Congress did not intend to require rivers to be "naturally flowing"—flowing without any upstream manipulation except by nature. The presence of impoundments above and/or below the segment—including those that regulate the flow regime through the segment, as well as existing minor dams, and diversion structures within the study reach—will not by themselves render a river ineligible. There are many segments in the NWSRS that are downstream from major dams or on reaches between dams.

A river segment need not be "boatable or floatable" in order to be eligible. For purposes of eligibility determination, the volume of flow is sufficient if it is enough to maintain the ORVs identified within the segment. Rivers with intermittent flows exist within the NWSRS, and rivers representative of desert ecosystems that have outstanding ecological or other values should be considered as well (BLM Manual 8351). In addition, there are no specific requirements for segment length. Supplemental guidance provided in BLM Instruction Memorandum 2004-196 states that:

> As to the first issue, judgment is required in determining eligibility of water courses that are free-flowing and have associated ORVs. As a general rule, the segment should contain regular and predictable flows (even though intermittent, seasonal, or interrupted). This flow should derive from naturally occurring circumstances, e.g., aquifer recharge, seasonal melting from snow or ice, normal precipitation, in-stream flow from spillways or upstream facilities. Caution is advised in applying the free-flow criterion to water courses that only flow during flash floods or unpredictable events. The segment should not be ephemeral (flow lasting only few days out of a year). Evaluation of flows should focus on normal water years, with consideration of drought or wet years during the inventory.

A ***river study area*** extends the length of an identified river segment and includes a river corridor area of no more than 320 acres per mile from the ordinary high-water mark on both sides of the river. During field assessments, the interdisciplinary team outlined a preliminary one-quarter mile corridor boundary on both sides of the active channel of an eligible river segment. When existing data was inconclusive, the team considered the presence of riparian vegetation to be a surrogate indicator of a river's perennial or intermittent free-flowing state.

3.2 OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES

While values must be river-related, eligible ORVs may be ***scenic***, ***recreational***, ***geologic***, ***fish***, ***wildlife***, ***cultural***, ***historic***, ***vegetation***, or other similar value (such as ***paleontological***). In addition, in order to be considered outstandingly remarkable, a value must be unique, rare, or exemplary, as well as significant within a defined region of comparison.

3.3 REGIONS OF COMPARISON

A ***region of comparison*** is used to compare the special values for which a river is being considered against comparable elements within a defined geographic area. The area, region, or scale used for comparison is not fixed, and should be that which best serves as a basis for meaningful analysis—it might vary, depending on the value being considered. The scale of a region could consist of a portion of a state or other appropriately scaled geographic area or hydrologic unit (Interagency WSR Coordinating Council, 1999).

The following regions of comparison for each ORV category were developed by UFO resource specialists, and used to evaluate the WSR eligibility of UFO rivers:

1. SCENIC

Standard - The landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors must result in notable or exemplary visual features and/or attractions within the geographic region. The BLM Visual Resource Inventory Handbook (H8410-1) may be used to assess visual quality and evaluate the extent to which development impacts an area's scenic values. The area must have a ***Scenic Quality Classification of A***, as defined in H8410-1. When analyzing scenic values, additional factors such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and length of time negative intrusions are viewed may be considered. Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over the majority of the river segment length and not common to other rivers in the geographic region.

Region of Comparison - The landscape has a ***Scenic Quality Classification of A*** within either the Southern Rockies or Colorado Plateau ecologic region (as shown in the Ecoregions Map on page 14).

2. RECREATIONAL

Standard - Recreational opportunities are or have the potential to be unusual enough to attract visitors to the geographic region. Visitors are willing to travel long distances to use the river resources for recreational purposes. Recreation-related opportunities could include, but are not be limited to, sightseeing, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing, hunting, and boating. Interpretive opportunities may be exceptional and attract or have the potential to attract visitors from outside the geographic area. The river may provide or have the potential to provide settings for national or regional commercial usage or competitive events. In addition, the river may be eligible if it is determined to provide a critically important regional recreation opportunity, or be a significant component of a regional recreation opportunity spectrum setting.

Region of Comparison - The area possesses recreational opportunities popular enough to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the state of Colorado, and/or that are unique or rare within either the Southern Rockies or Colorado Plateau ecologic region (as shown in the Ecoregions Map on page 14). Opportunities could include Gold Medal fisheries, rafting, and others.

3. GEOLOGIC

Standard - The river or the area within the river corridor contains one or more examples of a geologic feature, process, or phenomenon that is rare, unusual, or unique to the geographic region. The feature or features may be in an unusually active stage of development, represent a textbook example and/or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic features (erosional, volcanic, glacial, and other geologic structures).

Region of Comparison - The feature is unique or rare within either the Southern Rockies or Colorado Plateau ecologic region (as shown in the Ecoregions Map on page 14).

4. FISH

Standard - Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of either fish populations or habitat, or a combination of these river-related conditions.

a) ***Populations:*** The river is nationally or regionally one of the top producers of resident, indigenous, and/or anadromous fish species. Of particular significance may be the presence of wild or unique stocks, or populations of Colorado State and/or federally listed or candidate threatened and endangered species.

b) ***Habitat:*** The river provides exceptionally high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region. Of particular significance is habitat for Colorado State and/or federally listed or candidate threatened and endangered species.

Region of Comparison - Distribution of native species across their entire range, within either the Southern Rockies or Colorado Plateau ecologic region (as shown in the Ecoregions Map on page 14).

5. WILDLIFE

Standard - Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of either wildlife populations or habitat, or a combination of these conditions.

a) ***Populations:*** The river or area within the river corridor contains nationally or regionally important populations of resident or indigenous wildlife species dependent on the river environment. Of particular significance may be species considered to be unique or populations of Colorado State and/or federally listed or candidate threatened and endangered species.

b) ***Habitat:*** The river or area within the river corridor provides exceptionally high quality, occupied habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance, or may provide a unique or critical habitat link for special status species known to occur in the area. Contiguous habitat conditions are such that the biological needs of the species are met.

Region of Comparison - Distribution of native species across their entire range, within either the Southern Rockies or Colorado Plateau ecologic region (as shown in the Ecoregions Map on page 14).

6. CULTURAL

Standard - The river or area within the river corridor contains one or more sites where there is evidence of occupation or use by Native Americans. Sites must be rare, have unusual characteristics, or exceptional human interest values. Sites may have national or regional importance for interpreting prehistory, may be rare, may represent an area where culture or cultural period was first identified and described, may have been used

concurrently by two or more cultural groups, or may have been used by cultural groups for rare, sacred, tribal, or spiritual purposes.

Region of Comparison (RAC) - A site that is on, or could be eligible for, the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

Table 3-1 National Register of Historic Places Evaluation Criteria

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:	
CRITERION	DESCRIPTION
A	That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history
B	That are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past
C	That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction
D	That have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory

7. HISTORIC

Standard - The river or area within the corridor contains one or more sites or features associated with a significant event, person, or cultural activity of the past that was rare or unusual in the region. Historic and/or Native American sites or features in most cases are 50 years old or older. Sites or features listed in, or eligible for inclusion in, the NRHP may be of particular significance.

Region of Comparison - A site that is unique or rare within the state of Colorado, and is on or could be eligible for the NRHP. See Table 3-1 above.

8. VEGETATION

Standard - The river or stream segment supports a riparian vegetation community that is a superior occurrence or is rare on a global basis:

a) ***Superior occurrence:*** For this standard, a superior community is defined as having received an **Element Occurrence Ranking of *A*** by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP). A-ranking denotes that a community has excellent estimated ecological integrity based on size, condition, and landscape context.

b) ***Rare on a global basis:*** For this standard, rareness is defined as a ranking of **G1 or G2**, as determined by CNHP and described in Table 3-2.

Riparian vegetation that is located in a ***Potential Conservation Area*** (as determined by CNHP) has enhanced value because it has been identified as highly important for conserving regional and global biodiversity.

Region of Comparison - The river or area within the river corridor provides exceptional vegetative species or communities of significance within either the Southern Rockies or Colorado Plateau ecologic region (as shown in the Ecoregions Map on page 14). Consideration should be given to habitats and rare plants identified by CNHP as being of global importance (such as exceptional riparian areas and hanging gardens).

The element imperilment ranks shown in the table below are assigned in terms of an element's imperilment over its entire range (its Global-rank or G-rank):

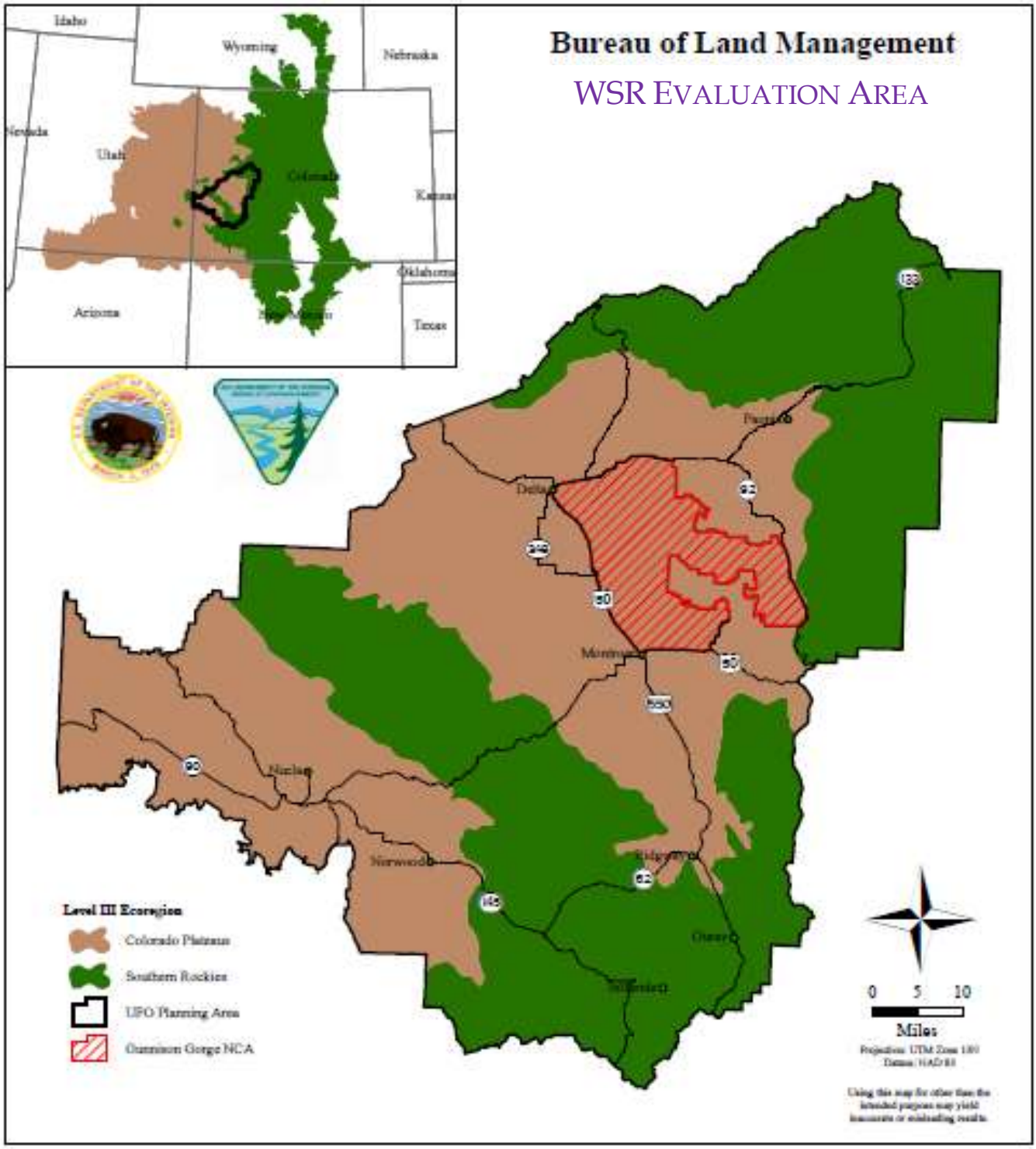
Table 3-2 Colorado Natural Heritage Program Element Imperilment Ranks

RANK	DESCRIPTION
G1	Critically imperiled globally because of rarity (5 or fewer occurrences in the world or 1,000 or fewer individuals), or because some factor of its biology makes it especially vulnerable to extinction.
G2	Imperiled globally because of rarity (6 to 20 occurrences or 1,000 to 3,000 individuals), or because other factors demonstrably make it very vulnerable to extinction throughout its range.
G3	Vulnerable through its range or found locally in a restricted range (21 to 100 occurrences or 3,000 to 10,000 individuals).
G4	Apparently secure globally, though it may be quite rare in parts of its range, especially at the periphery. Usually more than 100 occurrences and 10,000 individuals.
G5	Demonstrably secure globally, though it may be quite rare in parts of its range, especially at the periphery.

9. OTHER SIMILAR VALUES

Standard - While no specific evaluation guidelines have been established for the "other similar values" category, additional values deemed relevant to the eligibility of the river segment should be considered in a manner consistent with the foregoing guidance including, but not limited to, paleontologic, and scientific study opportunities.

Region of Comparison - Unique or rare within the Southern Rockies or Colorado Plateau ecologic region (as shown in the Ecoregions Map on page 14). For paleontological resources, these regions would be defined based on geological associations.



3.4 ECOREGIONS WITHIN THE WSR EVALUATION AREA

3.5 WILD, SCENIC AND RECREATIONAL CLASSIFICATIONS

The interdisciplinary team assigned each eligible river segment a classification of ***Wild***, ***Scenic*** or ***Recreational*** based upon water quality, as well as the type and degree of human development and access associated with the river and adjacent lands at the time of the eligibility determination. Classifications assigned during the eligibility phase are preliminary. Final classification is a congressionally legislated determination, along with the designation of a river segment as part of the NWSRS. The criteria for classification used in this evaluation are defined in Section 2(b) of the WSRA and summarized in Table 3-3 below.

Table 3-3 Criteria for Preliminary Classification

ATTRIBUTE	RIVER CLASSIFICATION		
	WILD	**SCENIC**	**RECREATION**
Water Resources Development (such as impoundments and diversions)	• Free of impoundment	• Free of impoundment	• Some existing impoundment or diversion • The existence of low dams, diversions, riprap, or other modifications of the waterway is acceptable, provided the waterway remains generally natural and riverine in appearance
Shoreline Development	• Essentially primitive • Little or no evidence of human activity • The presence of a few inconspicuous structures, particularly those of historic or cultural value, is acceptable • A limited amount of domestic livestock grazing or hay production is acceptable • Little or no evidence of past timber harvest • No ongoing timber harvest	• Largely primitive and undeveloped • No substantial evidence of human activity • The presence of small communities or dispersed dwellings or farm structures is acceptable • The presence of grazing, hay production or row crops is acceptable • Evidence of past or ongoing timber harvest is acceptable, provided the forest appears natural from the riverbank	• Some development • Substantial evidence of human activity • The presence of extensive residential development and a few commercial structures is acceptable • Lands may have been developed for the full range of agricultural and forestry uses • May show evidence of past and ongoing timber harvest

ATTRIBUTE	RIVER CLASSIFICATION		
	WILD	SCENIC	RECREATION
Accessibility	• Generally inaccessible except by trail • No roads, railroads, or other provision for vehicular travel within the river area • A few existing roads leading to the boundary of the river area is acceptable	• Accessible in places by road • Roads may occasionally reach or bridge the river • The existence of short stretches of conspicuous or longer stretches of inconspicuous roads or railroads is acceptable	• Readily accessible by road or railroad • The existence of parallel roads or railroads on one or both banks, as well as bridge crossings and other river access points, including fords, is acceptable
Water Quality	• Meets or exceeds Federal criteria or Federally approved state standards for aesthetics, for propagation of fish • Wildlife normally adapted to the habitat of the river, and for primary contact recreation (swimming), except where exceeded by natural conditions	• No criteria prescribed by the WSR Act. The Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972 have made it a national goal that all waters of the U.S. be made fishable and swimmable. Therefore, rivers will not be precluded from scenic or recreational classification because of poor water quality at the time of their study, provided a water quality improvement plan exists or is being developed in compliance with applicable federal and state laws.	

Source: Federal Register, NWSRS, Final Revised Guidelines for Eligibility, Classification, and Management of River Areas. Section 1(3), Vol. 47, No. 173, page 39461. September 7, 1982.

CHAPTER 4
Eligibility Determinations of Neighboring Agencies

4.1 BLM GRAND JUNCTION FIELD OFFICE

The BLM Grand Junction Field Office borders the UFO to the north. Grand Junction completed a WSR eligibility report in March 2009 in preparation for an upcoming RMP revision. Eligible Grand Junction watercourses adjoining the UFO boundary are summarized in Table 4-1 below.

Table 4-1 Eligible Grand Junction Field Office Segments adjoining UFO Boundary

RIVER SEGMENT	TOTAL LENGTH (IN MILES)	ORVS	TENTATIVE CLASSIFICATION
Dolores River	32.01	• Scenic • Recreational • Geologic • Paleontologic	Recreational
North Fork Mesa Creek	2.05	• Vegetation	Scenic
Gunnison River	15.73	• Recreational • Fish • Historic	Scenic

4.2 SAN JUAN PUBLIC LANDS CENTER

The San Juan Public Lands Center borders the UFO to the south. The Draft Land Management Plan and Draft EIS for the San Juan Public Lands Center identifies a 109.20-mile segment of the Dolores River from McPhee Reservoir to Bedrock, Colorado as eligible. The northernmost, downstream portion of this segment is within the UFO. Approximately 9.4 miles of this segment fall within the Dolores River Canyon WSA and have been preliminarily classified as *wild*. The remaining 2.4 miles from the WSA boundary to Bedrock, Colorado have been classified as *recreational*.

Table 4-2 Eligible San Juan Public Lands Segments adjoining UFO Boundary

RIVER SEGMENT	TOTAL LENGTH (IN MILES)	ORVS	TENTATIVE CLASSIFICATION
Dolores River	109.20 (11.80 within the UFO)	• Scenic • Recreational • Fish • Wildlife • Geologic • Ecologic • Archeologic	Wild (9.4) Recreational (2.4)

4.3 MANTI-LA SAL NATIONAL FOREST

The Manti La Sal National Forest borders the UFO to the west. Manti La Sal issued a Final Eligibility Study of Wild and Scenic Rivers in March 2003. This report identifies Roc Creek as eligible up to the UFO boundary. The details are provided in Table 4-3 below.

Table 4-3 Eligible Manti La Sal National Forest Segments adjoining UFO Boundary

RIVER SEGMENT	TOTAL LENGTH (IN MILES)	ORVS	TENTATIVE CLASSIFICATION
Roc Creek	9.40	• Scenic • Geologic • Hydrologic	Wild

4.4 BLM GUNNISON AND MOAB FIELD OFFICES, AND GRAND MESA, GUNNISON AND UNCOMPAHGRE NATIONAL FORESTS

The BLM Gunnison Field Office borders the UFO to the east. Gunnison completed a WSR review as part of their RMP revision in 1993. 130 watercourses were inventoried as part of this review. One eight-mile segment of the Upper Lake Fork of the Gunnison River was determined to be eligible. This river segment was dropped from WSR consideration at the suitability phase.

The BLM Moab Field Office borders the UFO to the west. Moab issued a Draft RMP and EIS in August 2007, which included a WSR study. There were no watercourses adjoining the UFO boundary identified as eligible.

The Grand Mesa and Uncompahgre National Forest issued a proposed Forest Plan Revision in conjunction with the Gunnison National Forest in March 2007, which included a WSR eligibility study. There were no watercourses adjoining the UFO boundary identified as eligible.

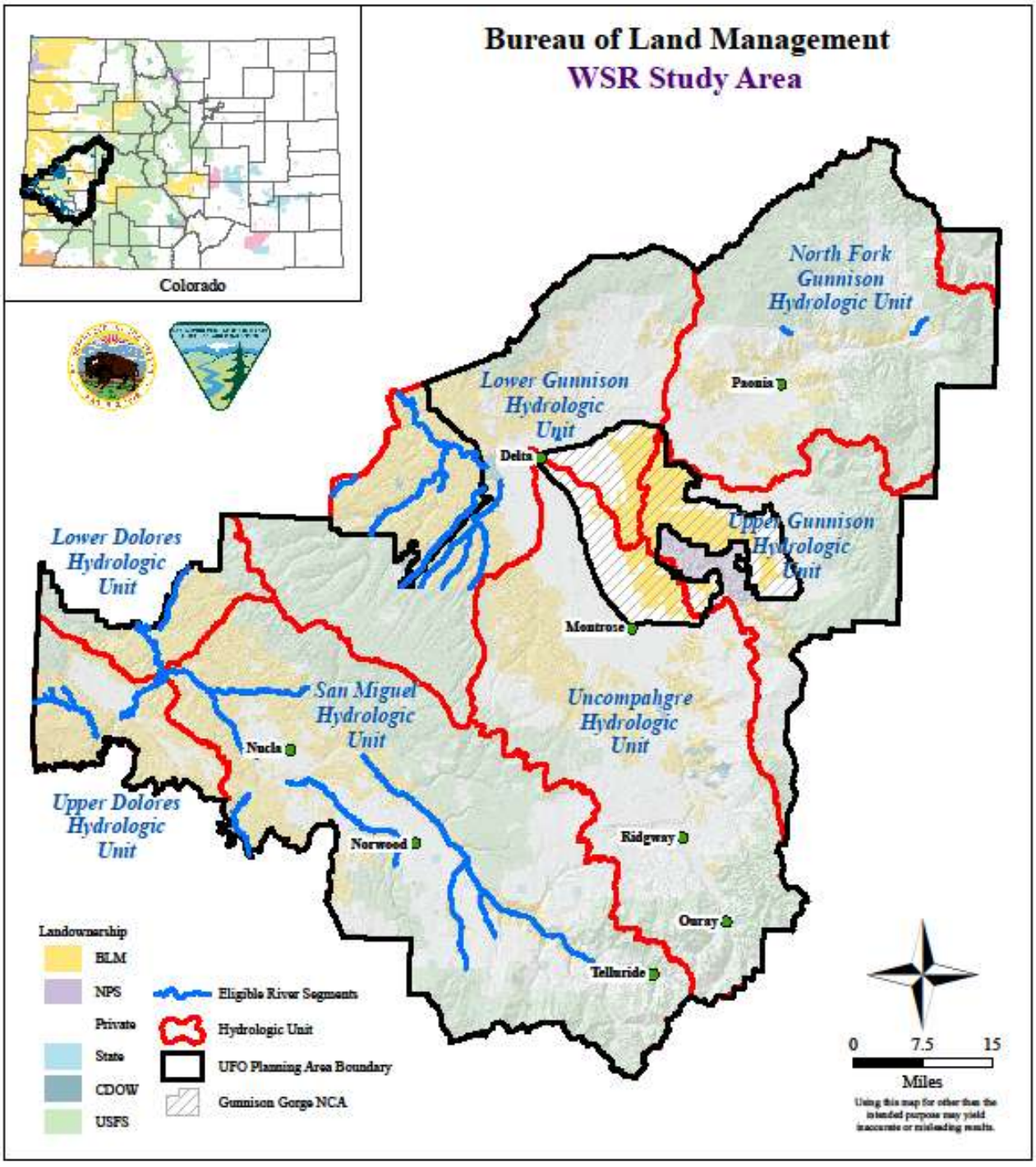
CHAPTER 5
Eligible River Segments

This chapter describes 34 river segments within the Uncompahgre planning area that were evaluated and found to meet the WSR eligibility criteria of being free-flowing and possessing at least one ORV. (See the eligibility criteria in Chapter 3 beginning on page 8) Table 5-1 below shows the number of eligible segments within each hydrologic unit of the UFO. In addition, Table 7-1 in Appendix C provides a detailed inventory of all UFO segments inventoried. Eligibility determinations apply only to that portion of a segment under BLM jurisdiction. The BLM will coordinate with and seek additional support from landowners and users during the suitability phase of the WSR process (described in Chapter 6 of this report).

Table 5-1 Eligible River Segments by Hydrologic Unit

HYDROLOGIC UNIT	NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE SEGMENTS	MAP REFERENCE
Upper Gunnison	0	N/A
Lower Gunnison	11	Map 1 to Map 11
Uncompahgre	0	N/A
North Fork of the Gunnison	2	Map 12 to Map 13
San Miguel	11	Map 14 to Map 24
Lower Dolores	2	Map 25 to Map 26
Upper Dolores[1]	8	Map 27 to Map 33
TOTAL SEGMENTS	**34**	

[1]Includes one reach of the Dolores River in the UFO that was determined to be eligible in the San Juan Public Lands, Draft Land Management Plan (map not included for this reach).



5.1 ELIGIBLE RIVER SEGMENTS IN THE WSR EVALUATION AREA

Total Eligible Segments: 34

5.2 AGENCY REVIEW

Eligible river segments and associated ORVs were reviewed and incorporate comments by the following agencies and organizations:

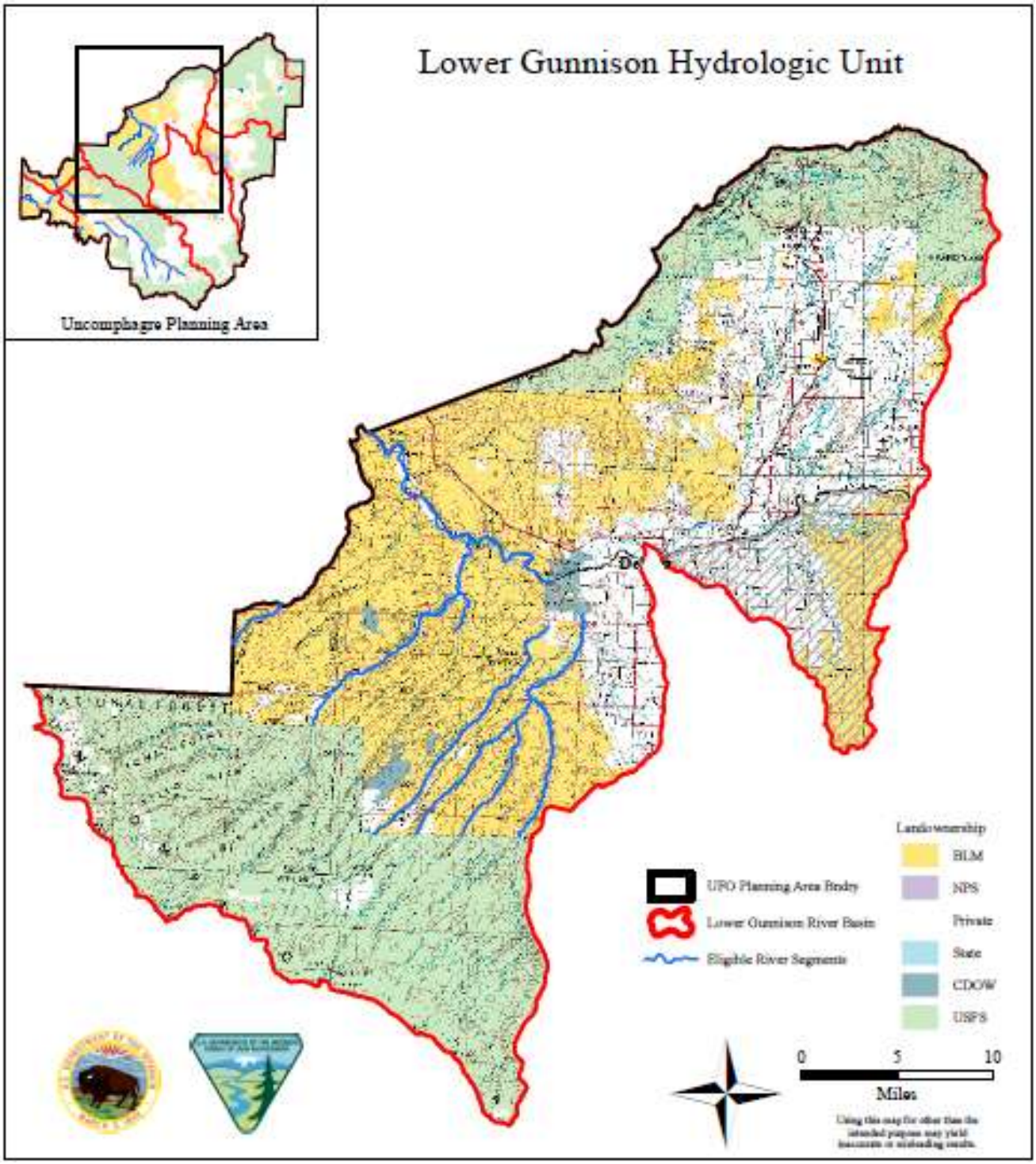
- Colorado Department of Wildlife
- Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP)
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)

5.3 PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT

The draft eligibility report was available for public review and comment as part of the scoping phase for the Uncompahgre RMP revision, which occurred from December 15, 2009 to March 29, 2010. A summary of the comments received during scoping are in Appendix D of Chapter 7 of this report.

5.4 RIVER SEGMENT DESCRIPTIONS AND RATIONALE

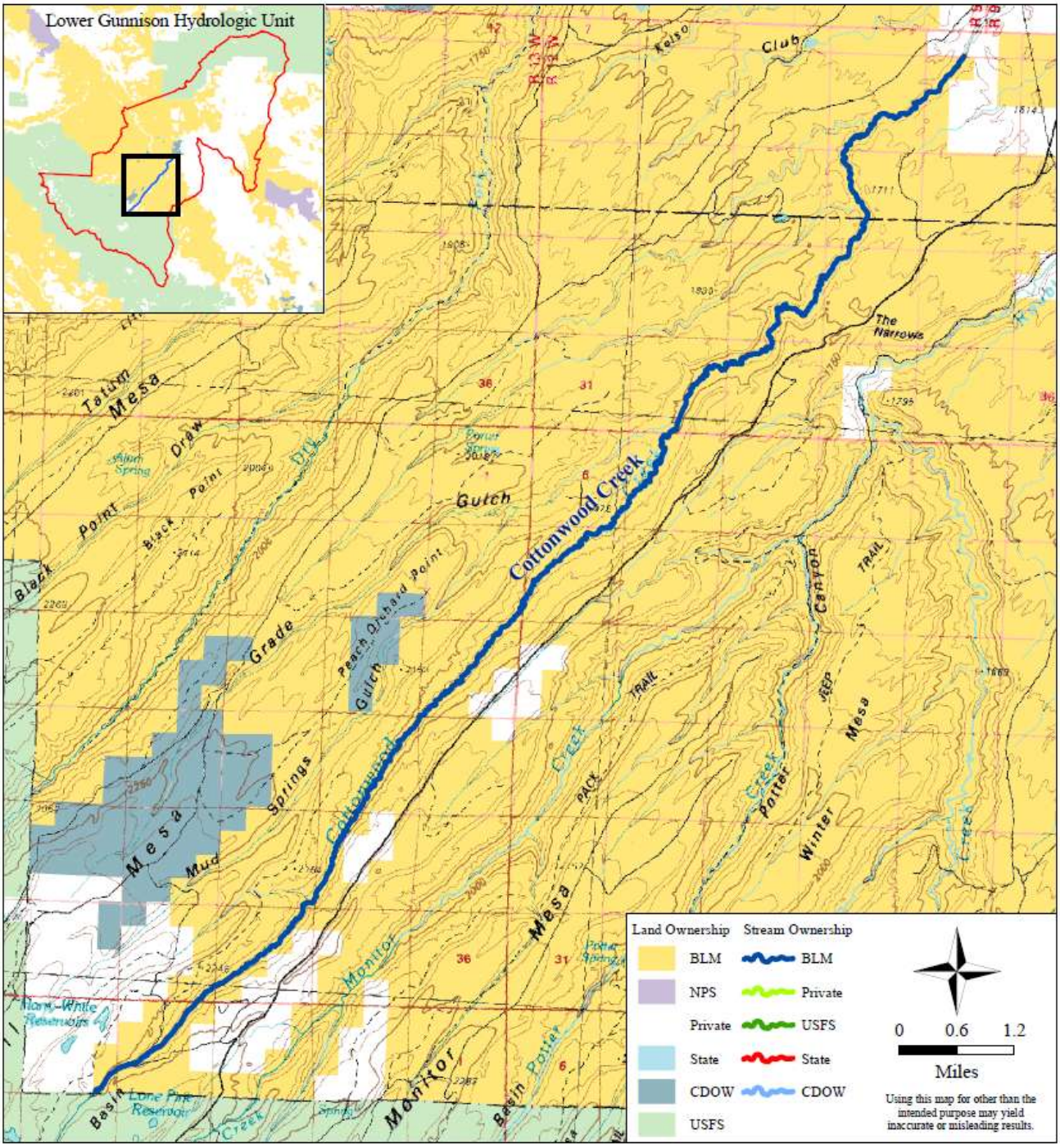
The following river segments were found to be eligible for WSR consideration by the UFO interdisciplinary team. They are listed in alphabetical order within their appropriate hydrologic unit:



HYDROLOGIC UNIT 1 - LOWER GUNNISON

Eligible River Segments: 11

1. Cottonwood Creek
2. Dry Fork Escalante Creek, Segment 2
3. Escalante Creek, Segment 1
4. Escalante Creek, Segment 2
5. Gunnison River, Segment 2
6. Gunnison River, Segment 3
7. Monitor Creek
8. Potter Creek
9. Rose Creek
10. Roubideau Creek, Segment 1
11. Roubideau Creek, Segment 2



Map 1 - Cottonwood Creek

Total Segment Length: **18.27 miles**

BLM-administered Portion: **18.27 miles**

Hydrologic Unit: **Lower Gunnison**

Preliminary Classification: **Scenic**

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: **Vegetation**

1 - RIVER SEGMENT: COTTONWOOD CREEK
HYDROLOGIC UNIT: Lower Gunnison

***Segment will be evaluated for suitability during development of the Dominguez-Escalante RMP.**

Description: Cottonwood Creek is a tributary of Roubideau Creek that drains from the east side of the Uncompahgre Plateau. This segment is located within the Dominguez-Escalante NCA. Its upper terminus is the BLM boundary with the Uncompahgre National Forest, while the lower terminus is at the lower extent of BLM-managed lands, approximately 2.5 miles above the Roubideau Creek confluence. The flow regime of Cottonwood Creek is typically perennial in average to above average water years, but can become intermittent in lower reaches during dry years. High flows occur during spring snowmelt and from runoff generated by summer thunderstorm activity, especially in the lower reaches.

Lower Terminus – Latitude: 38° 41' 36.07" N; Longitude: 108° 10' 47.74" W
Upper Terminus – Latitude: 38° 31' 57.44" N; Longitude: 108° 20' 21.17" W

River Segment Ownership (in Miles):

BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL LENGTH	% FEDERAL
18.27				**18.27**	**100%**

Land Ownership within One-Half Mile Wide Corridor (in Acres):

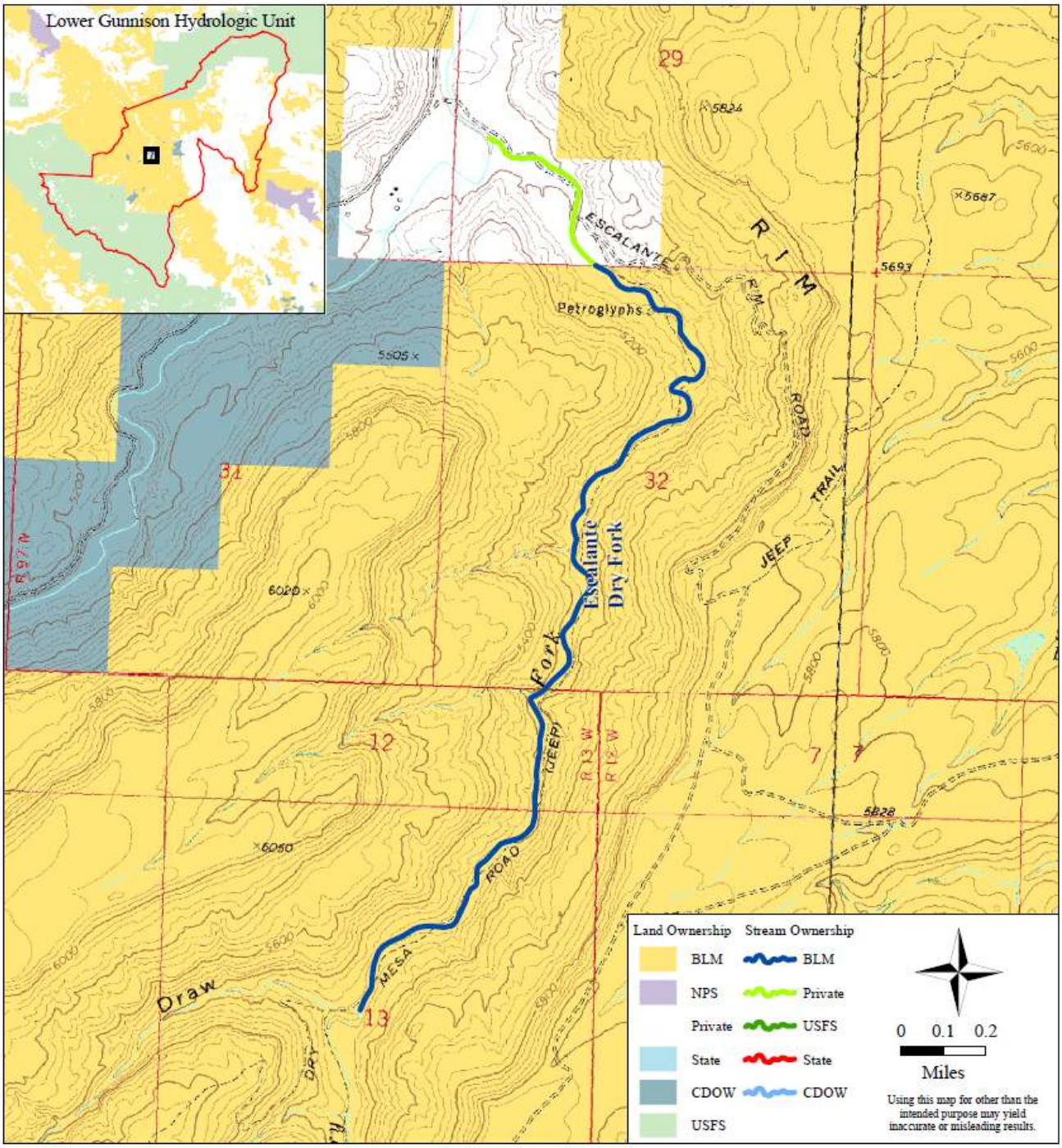
BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL ACRES	% FEDERAL
4,725.9	22.3		277.6	**5,025.8**	**94.5%**

***Outstandingly Remarkable Values:* Vegetation**

1) Vegetation - The entire length of this segment supports a superior (A-ranked) occurrence of globally vulnerable (G3) narrowleaf cottonwood/skunkbush sumac riparian woodland *(Populus angustifolia/Rhus trilobata)*. The Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP) includes this segment within the Cottonwood Creek Potential Conservation Area.

***Preliminary Classification:* Scenic**

Rationale - One unsurfaced road crosses Cottonwood Creek approximately one-half mile downstream of the upper terminus. There are no absolute water right diversions or impoundments along this stretch and little evidence of human activity. The shoreline is primitive.



Map 2 - Dry Fork Escalante Creek, Segment 2

Total Segment Length: **2.89 miles**

BLM-administered Portion: **2.43 miles**

Hydrologic Unit: **Lower Gunnison**

Preliminary Classification: **Recreational**

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: **Vegetation**

2 - RIVER SEGMENT: DRY FORK ESCALANTE CREEK, SEGMENT 2
HYDROLOGIC UNIT: Lower Gunnison

***Segment will be evaluated for suitability during development of the Dominguez-Escalante RMP.**

Description: The Dry Fork of Escalante Creek is an intermittent-flowing tributary of Escalante Creek, draining from the east side of the Uncompahgre Plateau. High flows in this stream typically occur during spring snowmelt and from runoff generated by occasional summer thunderstorm activity. The upper terminus of this segment is the confluence of Dry Fork and Tatum Draw, while the lower terminus is the confluence of Dry Fork with Escalante Creek. This creek segment lies entirely within the Dominguez-Escalante NCA.

Lower Terminus - Latitude: 38° 42' 57.59" N; Longitude: 108° 15' 59.61" W
Upper Terminus - Latitude: 38° 41' 10.08" N; Longitude: 108° 16' 14.85" W

River Segment Ownership (in Miles):

BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL LENGTH	% FEDERAL
2.43			0.46	**2.89**	**84.1%**

Land Ownership within One-Half Mile Wide Corridor (in Acres):

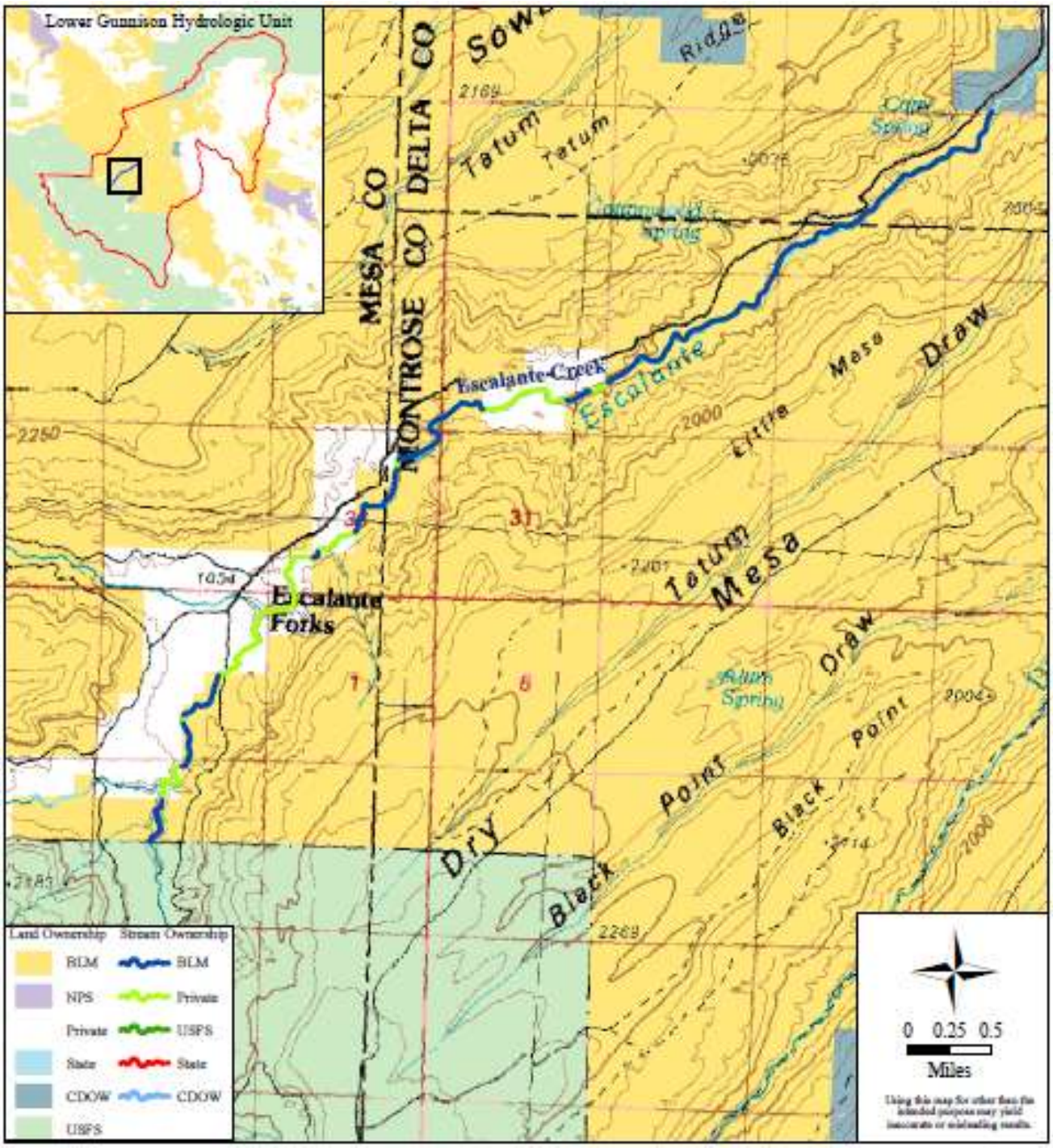
BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL ACRES	% FEDERAL
766.4			96.1	**862.5**	**88.9%**

***Outstandingly Remarkable Values:* Vegetation**

1) Vegetation - This segment contains an area of Fremont cottonwood/skunkbush sumac riparian forest *(Populus deltoides ssp. wislizenii/Rhus trilobata)*, classified as globally imperiled (G2). Part of this segment is included in the CNHP-designated Escalante Creek Potential Conservation Area.

***Preliminary Classification:* Recreational**

Rationale - A heavily used unsurfaced road follows and crosses the Dry Fork stream channel. In addition, several fences cross the channel to delineate livestock grazing pastures. The Colorado Decision Support System water rights database shows no water diversions or impoundments along this reach.



Map 3 - Escalante Creek, Segment 1

Total Segment Length: **8.45 miles**

BLM-administered Portion: **5.75 miles**

Hydrologic Unit: **Lower Gunnison**

Preliminary Classification: **Scenic**

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: **Scenic, Recreational, Geologic, Wildlife, Vegetation**

3 - RIVER SEGMENT: ESCALANTE CREEK, SEGMENT 1
HYDROLOGIC UNIT: Lower Gunnison

***Segment will be evaluated for suitability during development of the Dominguez-Escalante RMP.**

Description: Escalante Creek is a major perennial tributary of the lower Gunnison River that drains from the east side of the Uncompahgre Plateau. This segment of the creek lies within the Dominguez-Escalante NCA. The upper terminus is its meeting with the Uncompahgre National Forest boundary, while the lower terminus is the boundary between BLM and State managed lands. This stream supports both a trout fishery and native flannelmouth and bluehead suckers.

Lower Terminus - Latitude: 38° 40' 42.47" N; Longitude: 108° 18' 44.70" W
Upper Terminus - Latitude: 38° 36' 44.01" N; Longitude: 108° 24' 12.21" W

River Segment Ownership (in Miles):

BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL LENGTH	% FEDERAL
5.75			2.69	**8.45**	**68%**

Land Ownership within One-Half Mile Wide Corridor (in Acres):

BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL ACRES	% FEDERAL
1,796.5	13.5	13.7	654.9	**2,478.6**	**73%**

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: **Scenic, Recreational, Geologic, Wildlife, Vegetation**

1) Scenic - An interdisciplinary BLM field inventory team evaluated the area and assigned a Scenic Quality Classification of A. The following observations were derived from their field notes: Escalante Creek offers very high scenic qualities. The cascading whitewater creek runs swift and linear here, creating dramatic potholes and waterfalls. A large-scale sandstone canyon provides dramatic vistas, prominent vertical and horizontal cliffs, major rock outcroppings, and jagged ridgelines that dominate the landscape. Landform colors abound in shades of tans, pinks, reds, oranges, brown and blue. The surrounding vegetation adds to the beauty, providing shades of green, golden, yellow, and tan, which become increasingly dense along the river.

   This canyon has scenic features that are rare in the region of comparison: a "double canyon" system. The broader outer canyon bounded by colorful cliffs of sedimentary rock holds within it a smaller, narrow canyon of dark gray and black Precambrian metamorphic rock within which the creek flows. This vivid contrast is only found in a handful of canyons on the Colorado Plateau.

1) Recreational - This segment has outstanding opportunities for recreation, primarily in the Escalante Potholes Recreation Site. Escalante Creek has smoothed and sculpted the Precambrian metamorphic rock through which it flows, creating a series of chutes, falls and plunge-pools. These features are rare. During spring snowmelt, high water surges through the

Potholes area, attracting extreme kayakers from all over the western United States. The complex hydraulic features challenge even the most experienced kayakers. Later in the season, as the snowmelt tapers off and the creek returns to a more sedate and steady flow, the potholes are used for wading, swimming and streamside camping by groups and individuals, primarily from Colorado's West Slope. Classic Colorado Plateau canyon scenery and the rare occurrence of black Precambrian schist in a perennially-flowing streambed combine to make this section of Escalante Creek an exceptional recreational experience.

2) Geologic - The Escalante Potholes are a regionally rare geologic and hydrologic streambed feature in the lower reach of this segment. The potholes are hourglass-shaped erosional features occurring in hard Precambrian gneiss where it intercepts the streambed of Escalante Creek. Stream channel knickpoints have formed in the overlying softer sedimentary rock units, providing high velocity waters with adequate sediment supply and hydrologic energy to produce circulating erosive water currents. The scouring process that occurs primarily during annual spring snowmelt, has taken thousands of years to produce the potholes in their current state.

   There are no other areas in the region where Precambrian gneiss is exposed and shaped by a stream powerful enough to create the feature, yet not so powerful as to completely erode the stream channel smooth. This rare combination of lithology and erosion demonstrates not only the efficacy of hydrology upon geology, but also the creative sculpturing action that time and water have upon a very resistant medium. With almost any other medium, such as sandstone or even marble, this effect would not have produced as dramatic a feature as has been formed in Escalante Creek.

3) Wildlife - Escalante Canyon provides exceptionally high quality habitat for peregrine falcons *(Falco peregrinus)*, and is considered a regionally important area for this BLM sensitive species. In 1999, the peregrine was delisted from threatened status under the Endangered Species Act. The BLM monitors the status of peregrine populations to ensure continued recovery of the species. Peregrine falcons are closely associated with steep-walled canyons and often nest near perennial water sources that support prey populations such as waterfowl, songbirds, and shorebirds. Peregrine falcon pairs were observed in Escalante Canyon as recently as 2008 and 2009, and breeding/nesting activity has been confirmed along this segment.

4) Vegetation - This segment contains several plant communities considered to be rare globally, including occurrences of narrowleaf cottonwood/strapleaf willow-silver buffaloberry riparian forest *(Populus angustifolia/Salix ligulifolia/Shepherdia argentea)*, which is critically imperiled globally (G1) and Fremont cottonwood/skunkbush sumac riparian forest *(Populus deltoides ssp. wislizenii/Rhus trilobata)*, which is globally imperiled (G2). Giant helleborine orchid *(Epipactis gigantea)*, rare in Colorado, occurs along this segment. Hanging gardens arise from seeps on nearby cliffs, and support Mancos columbine/Eastwood's monkeyflower wetland *(Aquilegia micrantha/Mimulus eastwoodiae)*, which is categorized as globally imperiled (G2). Just uphill from

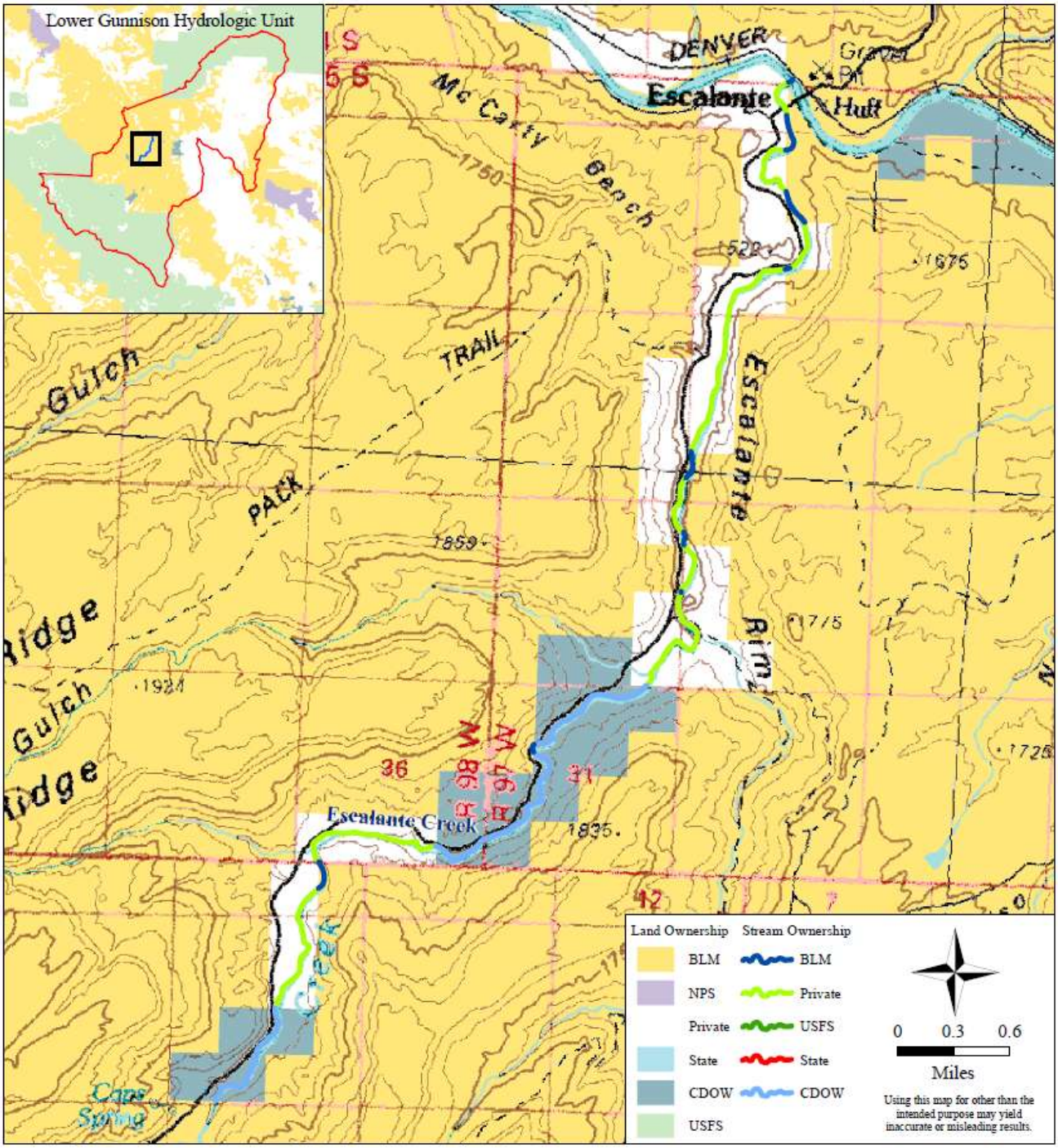
the stream, these seeps lead into an unusual salt meadow dominated by alkali cordgrass *(Spartina gracilis)*, which is ranked as rare in Colorado.

An ecologically important occurrence of Eastwood's monkeyflower *(Mimulus eastwoodiae)*, a rare BLM sensitive species, occurs in the vicinity of Escalante Creek. This species is associated with seeps, springs, and tributaries in hanging garden vegetation communities. Several occurrences are within the Escalante Creek corridor.

This segment is included in the CNHP-designated Escalante Creek Potential Conservation Area. The BLM manages the hanging gardens and salt meadow vegetation adjacent to the segment as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). In addition, the Colorado Natural Areas Program recognizes this as a State Natural Area.

Preliminary Classification: **Scenic**

Rationale - An unsurfaced county road runs parallel to Escalante Creek for much of this reach, but is primarily well above the stream along a bench, and therefore not visible from the stream channel. The road crosses Escalante Creek near the upper terminus. Extensive recreational activity occurs in the Potholes area along this segment. There are water diversions as well, but no impoundments.



Map 4 - Escalante Creek, Segment 2

Total Segment Length: **8.48 miles**

BLM-administered Portion: **0.90 miles**

Hydrologic Unit: **Lower Gunnison**

Preliminary Classification: **Recreational**

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: **Fish, Wildlife, Vegetation**

4 - RIVER SEGMENT: ESCALANTE CREEK, SEGMENT 2
HYDROLOGIC UNIT: Lower Gunnison

***Segment will be evaluated for suitability during development of the Dominguez-Escalante RMP.**

Description: Escalante Creek is a major perennial tributary of the Gunnison River, draining from the east side of the Uncompahgre Plateau. High flows typically occur during spring snowmelt, as well as from runoff generated by occasional summer thunderstorm activity. This segment is located within the Dominguez-Escalante NCA. The upper terminus is the boundary between BLM and State managed lands, while the lower terminus is the confluence of Escalante Creek and the Gunnison River.

Lower Terminus - Latitude: 38° 45' 32.20" N; Longitude: 108° 15' 32.56" W
Upper Terminus - Latitude: 38° 40' 42.47" N; Longitude: 108° 18' 44.70" W

River Segment Ownership (in Miles):

BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL LENGTH	% FEDERAL
0.90		2.51	5.07	**8.48**	**10.6%**

Land Ownership within One-Half Mile Wide Corridor (in Acres):

BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL ACRES	% FEDERAL
987.6		550.3	1,001.8	**2,539.7**	**38.9%**

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: **Fish, Wildlife, Vegetation**

1) Fish - Escalante Creek is regionally important habitat for resident populations of native bluehead suckers *(Catostomus discobolus)* and flannelmouth suckers *(Catostomus latipinnis)*, as well as serving as a spawning site for Gunnison River populations of both these BLM and Colorado sensitive species.

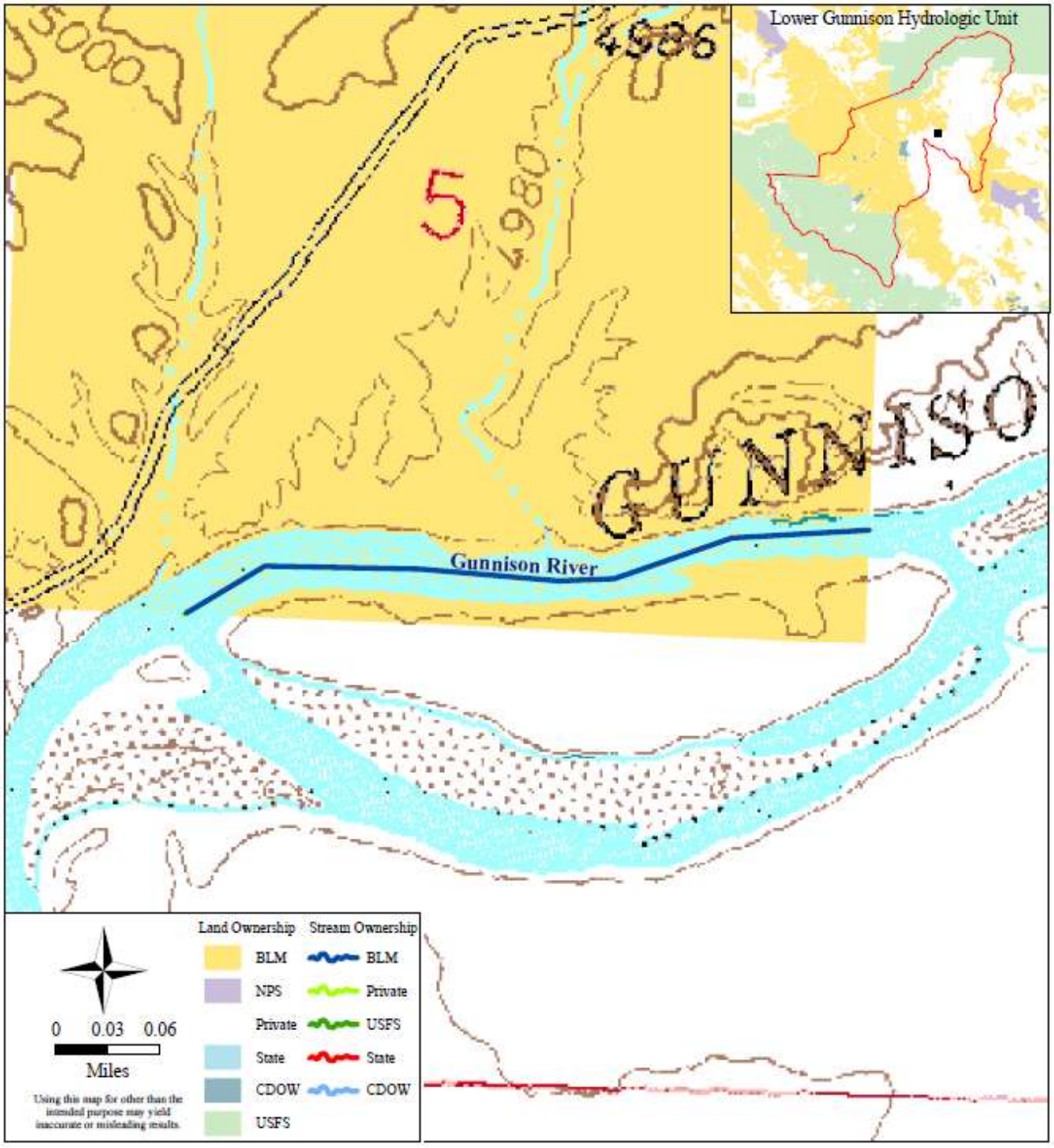
2) Wildlife - This section of Escalante Creek is regionally important habitat for desert bighorn sheep *(Ovis canadensis)*, primarily due to the presence of a water source. River otters *(Lontra canadensis)*, a BLM sensitive and Colorado endangered species, also occupy the creek.

   Escalante Canyon provides exceptionally high quality habitat for peregrine falcons *(Falco peregrinus)*, and is considered a regionally important area for this BLM sensitive species. In 1999, the peregrine was delisted from threatened status under the Endangered Species Act. The BLM monitors the status of peregrine populations to ensure continued recovery of the species. Peregrine falcons are closely associated with steep-walled canyons and often nest near perennial water sources that support prey populations such as waterfowl, songbirds, and shorebirds. Peregrine falcon pairs were observed in Escalante Canyon as recently as 2008 and 2009, and breeding/nesting activity has been confirmed along this segment.

3) Vegetation - This segment contains an occurrence of Fremont cottonwood/skunkbush sumac riparian forest *(Populus deltoides ssp. wislizenii/Rhus trilobata)*, which is classified as globally imperiled (G2). A portion of this segment is included in the CNHP-designated Escalante Creek Potential Conservation Area.

Preliminary Classification: **Recreational**

Rationale - An unsurfaced county road runs along portions of this stream segment and crosses Escalante Creek via a bridge near the mouth. A low water ford across Escalante Creek provides road access to the Dry Fork Escalante Creek area. There are several water diversions along this reach, primarily for irrigating agricultural lands along the river corridor.



Map 5 - Gunnison River, Segment 2

Total Segment Length: **0.41 miles**

BLM-administered Portion: **0.41 miles**

Hydrologic Unit: **Lower Gunnison**

Preliminary Classification: **Recreational**

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: **Fish**

5 - RIVER SEGMENT: GUNNISON RIVER, SEGMENT 2
HYDROLOGIC UNIT: Lower Gunnison

Description: The Gunnison River flows perennially, with its flow regulated primarily by upstream releases from Blue Mesa, Morrow Point and Crystal reservoirs. These reservoirs are authorized under the Colorado River Storage Project and collectively managed as the Aspinall Unit by the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR). This stretch of the Gunnison is upstream from Delta, Colorado and lies within Colorado Sixth Principal Meridian, T15S, R95W, Section 5 of the BLM Public Land Survey System. The upper terminus is the upstream boundary, and the lower terminus is the downstream boundary, of BLM lands within this geographic section.

Lower Terminus - Latitude: 38° 46' 25.24" N; Longitude: 108° 2' 21.92" W
Upper Terminus - Latitude: 38° 46' 28.47" N; Longitude: 108° 1' 55.65" W

River Segment Ownership (in Miles):

BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL LENGTH	% FEDERAL
0.41				**0.41**	**100%**

Land Ownership within One-Half Mile Wide Corridor (in Acres):

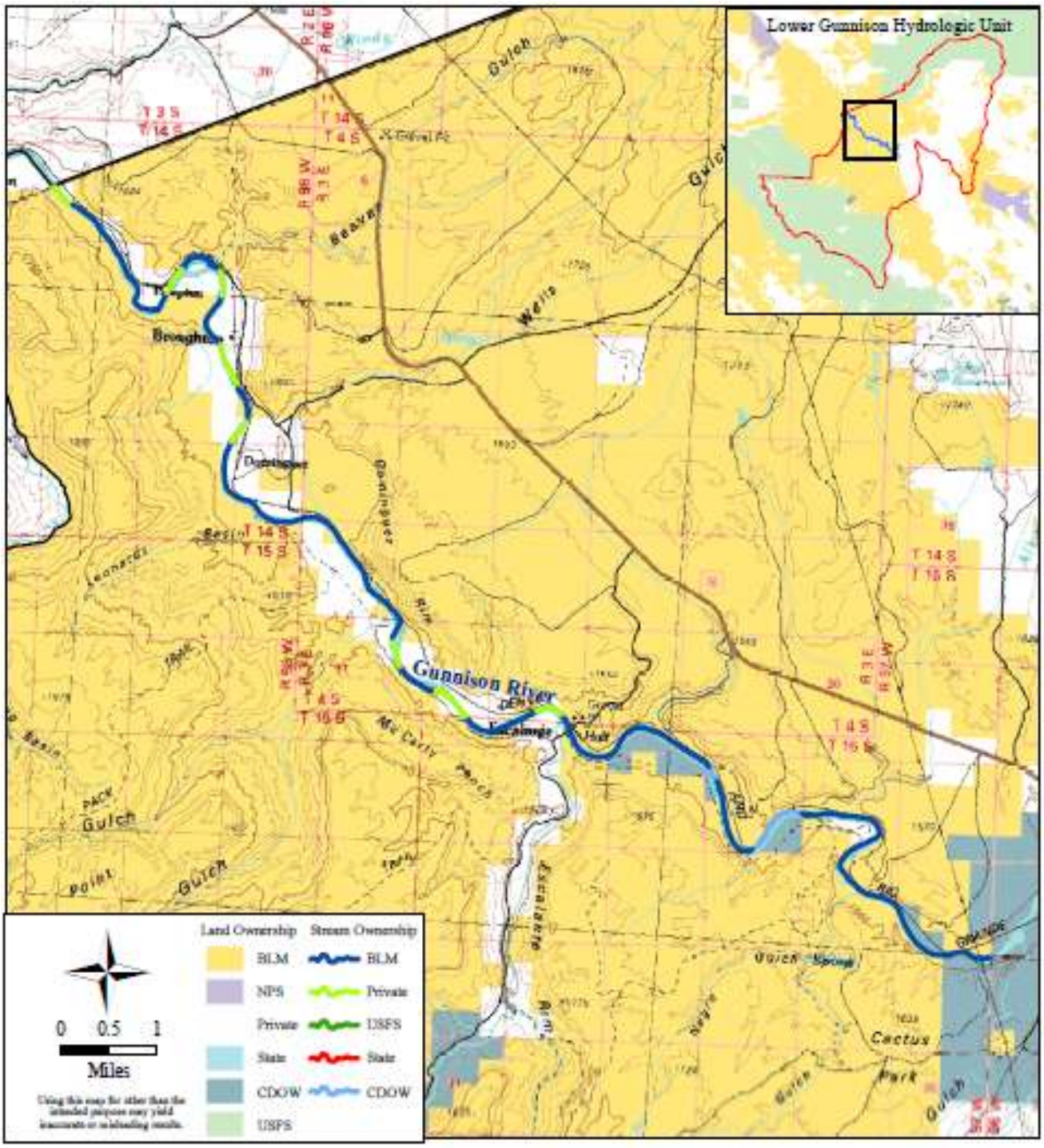
BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL ACRES	% FEDERAL
85.5			43.1	**128.6**	**66.5%**

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: **Fish**

1) Fish - The lower Gunnison River has been identified as habitat for two fish species classified as endangered under the Endangered Species Act: the Colorado pikeminnow (*Ptychocheilus lucius*) and razorback sucker (*Xyrauchen texanus*). Both species are known to inhabit this segment. In addition, this section of water supports predominantly native fish species, including exemplary populations of three BLM and Colorado sensitive species: flannelmouth suckers (*Catostomus latipinnis*), bluehead suckers (*Catostomus discobolus*), and roundtail chubs (*Gila robusta*).

Preliminary Classification: **Recreational**

Rationale - There is an unsurfaced road along the north river channel for most of this segment. There are no water diversions or impoundments along this stretch.



Map 6 - Gunnison River, Segment 3

Total Segment Length: **17.48 miles**

BLM-administered Portion: **14.02 miles**

Hydrologic Unit: **Lower Gunnison**

Preliminary Classification: **Recreational**

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: **Recreational, Fish, Cultural, Vegetation**

6 - RIVER SEGMENT: GUNNISON RIVER, SEGMENT 3
HYDROLOGIC UNIT: Lower Gunnison

*****Segment will be evaluated for suitability during development of the Dominguez-Escalante RMP.***

Description: The Gunnison River is a large, perennially flowing river that is regulated upstream by the Aspinall Unit (Blue Mesa, Morrow Point, and Crystal reservoirs). The present flow regime is designed to mimic historic conditions to best meet habitat requirements for native warm-water fish. The upper terminus of this segment is the boundary between BLM and State managed lands, approximately one-half mile upstream from Dominguez-Escalante NCA. The lower terminus is the boundary between the BLM UFO and BLM Grand Junction Field Office. The BLM Grand Junction WSR Eligibility Report identifies the contiguous reach of the Gunnison River downstream as "eligible."

Lower Terminus - Latitude: 38° 50' 7.02" N; Longitude: 108° 21' 37.21" W
Upper Terminus - Latitude: 38° 43' 33.87" N; Longitude: 108° 10' 33.72" W

River Segment Ownership (in Miles):

BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL LENGTH	% FEDERAL
14.02		0.87	2.59	**17.48**	**80.2%**

Land Ownership within One-Half Mile Wide Corridor (in Acres):

BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL ACRES	% FEDERAL
3,489.1		412.4	1,616.6	**5,518.1**	**63.2%**

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: **Recreational, Fish, Cultural, Vegetation**

1) Recreational - This section of the Gunnison River provides outstanding opportunities for relatively easy half-day to multi-day float trips through the Dominguez-Escalante NCA. The river is generally Class I flat water, with an occasional Class II riffle providing a challenge for novice boaters. Though much of this river segment flows through private lands, several BLM campsites and a boat launch provide good public access. Rafts, kayaks and canoes are the most common types of watercraft used on this section of river.

   Because of its non-technical nature and public access points, the lower Gunnison is extremely popular with novice, family and casual recreationists from across the state. In addition, the river provides the only public access to the mouth of Leonard's Basin, a broad BLM canyon with important recreational and cultural values. Scenic canyon walls, verdant orchards and historic features add to the recreational value of this section.

2) Fish - This river segment is predominantly comprised of native fish species, and is identified as designated critical habitat for both the endangered Colorado pikeminnow *(Ptychocheilus lucius)* and razorback sucker *(Xyrauchen texanus)*. Both species are known to reside within this

segment. In addition, this segment supports exemplary populations of three BLM and Colorado sensitive species: flannelmouth suckers *(Catostomus latipinnis)*, bluehead suckers *(Catostomus discobolus)*, and roundtail chubs *(Gila robusta)*.

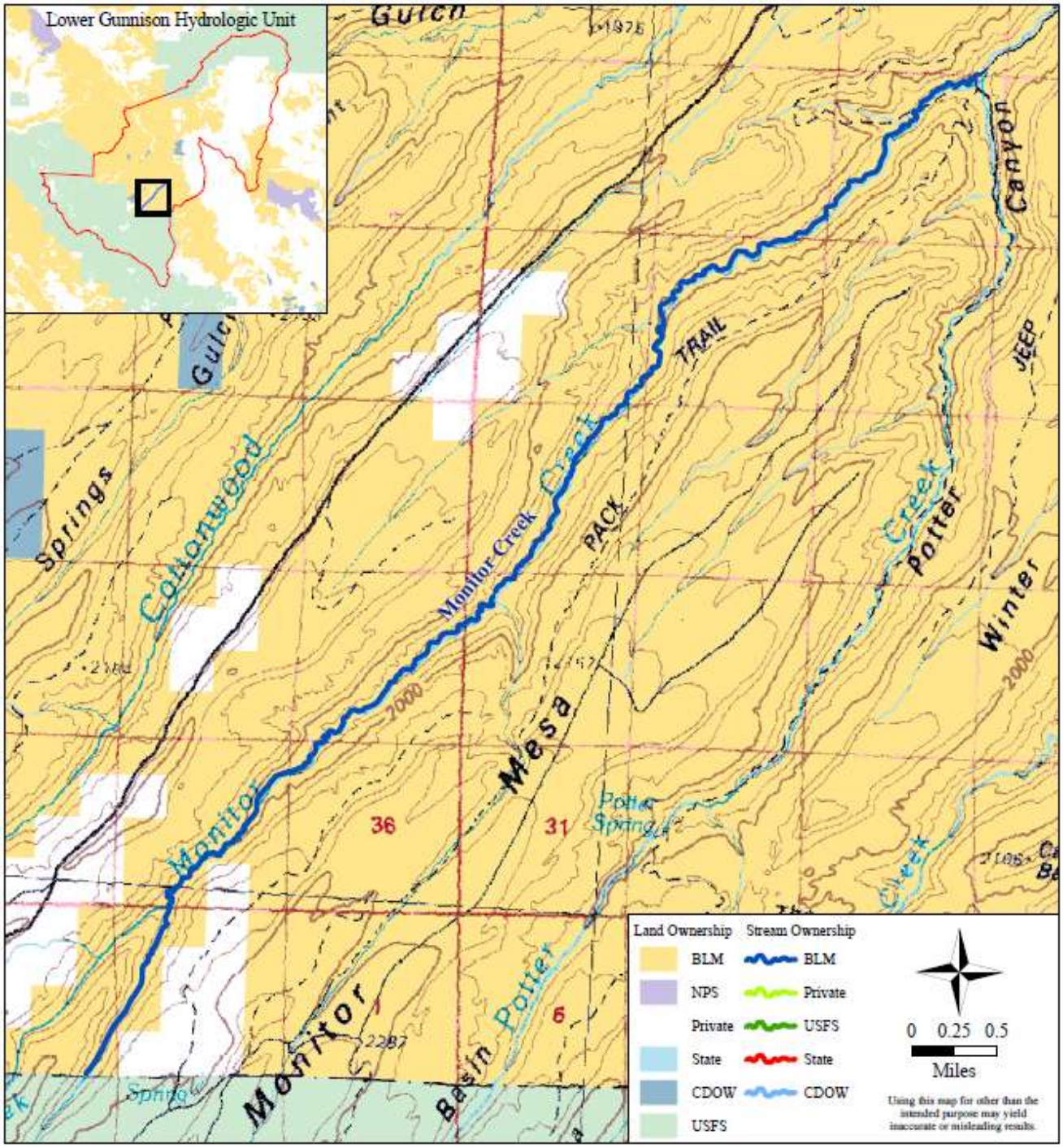
3) Cultural - This segment of the Gunnison River flows through canyon country that has been inhabited by prehistoric and historic cultures for over 10,000 years. Over 300 Native American sites have been recorded in the vicinity, ranging from Paleo-Indian sites to Archaic hunting and occupational camps to late Historic Period Ute villages. Rock art sites in the Escalante Bridge, Palmer Gulch and Leonard's Basin areas are of extremely high quality and significance. These sites qualify for nomination to the NRHP under ***Criterion C:*** *Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction* and ***Criterion D:*** *Yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory*.

4) Vegetation - This segment contains a large area of Fremont Cottonwood/skunkbush sumac riparian woodland *(Populus deltoides/Rhus trilobata)*, which is classified as globally imperiled (G2).

Preliminary Classification: Recreational

Rationale - There are several road access points along this reach, as well as a county road bridge crossing. A railroad runs adjacent to the river along the entire segment. There are also several water diversions, but no impoundments. Several parcels adjacent to the river are irrigated agricultural lands. This river segment has very high biodiversity significance (B2) and lies within the Gunnison River Potential Conservation Area, designated by CNHP in order to protect the endangered fish and threatened cactus.

This segment is also on Colorado's 303(d) list for impaired water quality due to the presence of selenium, which is suspected of impacting native warm water fish propagation in the Gunnison River (Water Body ID COGULG02, (Colorado Water Quality Control Commission). The state of Colorado is preparing a draft Total Maximum Daily Load Report with the goal of reducing the selenium concentration in the Gunnison River.



Map 7 - Monitor Creek

Total Segment Length: **9.42 miles**

BLM-administered Portion: **9.42 miles**

Hydrologic Unit: **Lower Gunnison**

Preliminary Classification: **Wild**

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: **Vegetation**

7 - RIVER SEGMENT: MONITOR CREEK
HYDROLOGIC UNIT: Lower Gunnison

Description: Monitor Creek is an intermittent tributary of Potter Creek, which in turn is a tributary of Roubideau Creek. Monitor Creek drains from the east side of the Uncompahgre Plateau, with high flows typically occurring during spring snowmelt. The upper terminus of this reach is the BLM boundary with the Uncompahgre National Forest, while the lower terminus is the confluence of Monitor Creek and Potter Creek.

Lower Terminus - Latitude: 38° 37' 13.37" N; Longitude: 108° 12' 30.12" W
Upper Terminus - Latitude: 38° 31' 57.26" N; Longitude: 108° 18' 3.86" W

River Segment Ownership (in Miles):

BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL LENGTH	% FEDERAL
9.42				**9.42**	**100%**

Land Ownership within One-Half Mile Wide Corridor (in Acres):

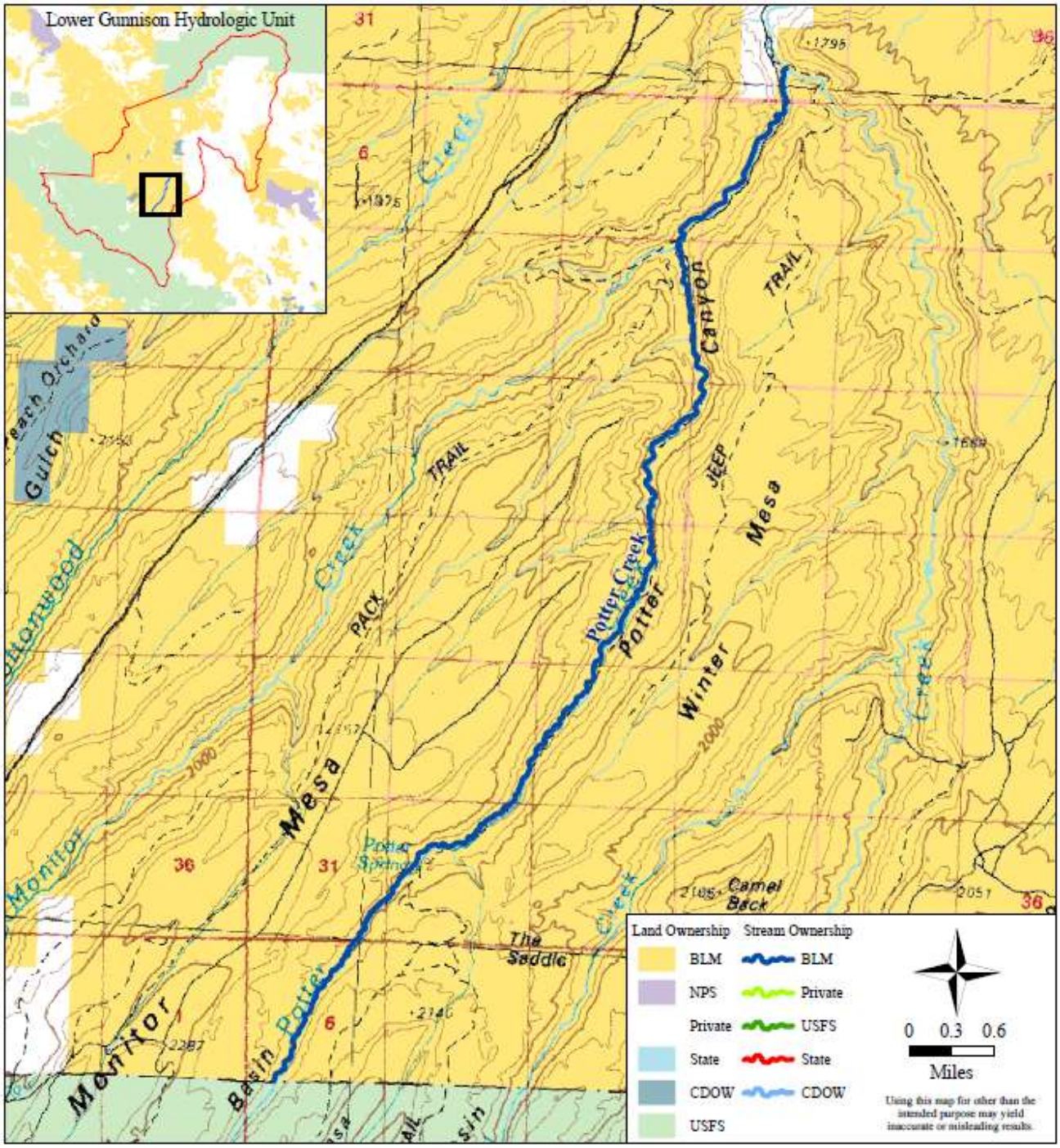
BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL ACRES	% FEDERAL
2,613.0	14.5		104.9	**2,732.4**	**96.2%**

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: **Vegetation**

1) Vegetation - This segment contains areas of narrowleaf cottonwood/strapleaf willow/silver buffaloberry riparian forest *(Populus angustifolia/Salix ligulfolia/Sheperdia argentea)* which is classified as critically imperiled globally (G1). Areas of globally imperiled (G2) Fremont cottonwood/skunkbush sumac riparian woodland *(Populus deltoides spp. Wislizeni/Rhus trilobata)* also occur along this segment. In addition, Monitor Creek contains a superior (A-ranked) occurrence of the common coyote willow riparian shrubland *(Salix exigua/mesic graminoids)*. Monitor Creek is within the CNHP-designated Roubideau Creek Potential Conservation Area.

Preliminary Classification: **Wild**

Rationale - Potter Creek Trail crosses Monitor Creek via an unhardened ford near the confluence with Potter Creek. With the exception of this crossing, the shoreline is essentially primitive. There are no water diversions or impoundments along this river segment.



Map 8 - Potter Creek

Total Segment Length: **9.82 miles**

BLM-administered Portion: **9.82 miles**

Hydrologic Unit: **Lower Gunnison**

Preliminary Classification: **Wild**

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: **Vegetation**

8 - RIVER SEGMENT: POTTER CREEK
HYDROLOGIC UNIT: **Lower Gunnison**

Description: This perennial tributary of Roubideau Creek drains from the east side of the Uncompahgre Plateau. The upper terminus of this segment is the boundary between BLM land and the Uncompahgre National Forest, while the lower terminus is the confluence of Potter Creek and Roubideau Creek. High flows in Potter Creek primarily occur during spring snowmelt and occasional summer rain events.

Lower Terminus - Latitude: 38° 38' 18.30" N; Longitude: 108° 11' 41.99" W
Upper Terminus - Latitude: 38° 31' 58.37" N; Longitude: 108° 15' 25.70" W

River Segment Ownership (in Miles):

BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL LENGTH	% FEDERAL
9.82				**9.82**	**100%**

Land Ownership within One-Half Mile Wide Corridor (in Acres):

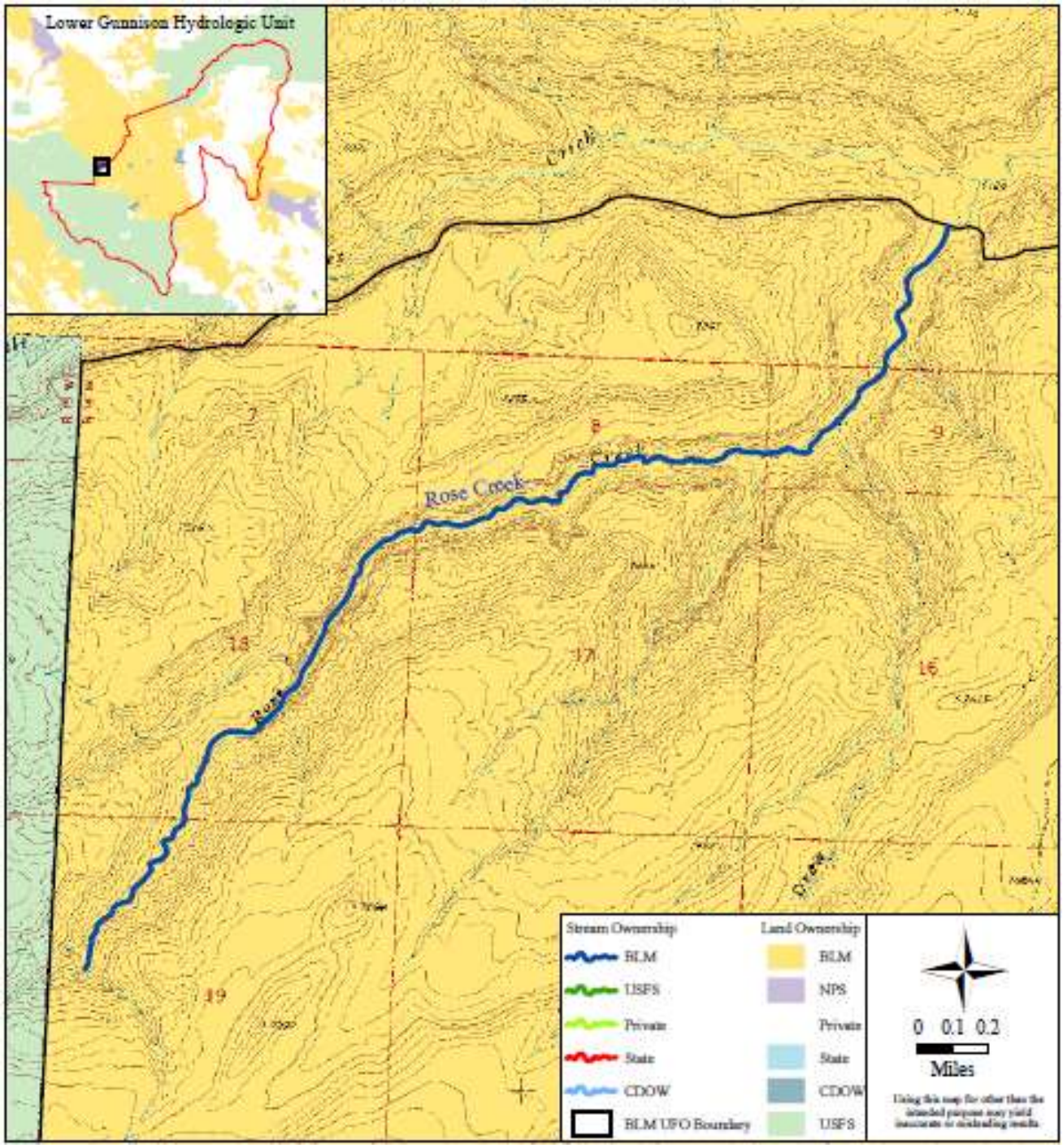
BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL ACRES	% FEDERAL
2,828.5	6.7		43.3	**2,878.5**	**98.5%**

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: **Vegetation**

1) Vegetation - This segment supports areas of narrowleaf cottonwood/strapleaf willow-silver buffaloberry riparian forest (*Populus angustifolia/Salix ligulfolia/Sheperdia argentea*), classified as critically imperiled globally (G1). This segment is included in the CNHP-designated Roubideau Creek Potential Conservation Area.

Preliminary Classification: **Wild**

Rationale - There are no water diversions or impoundments along this river segment. The shoreline is essentially primitive, with the exception of a horse and hiking trail that crosses Potter Creek at several points along the canyon floor.



Map 9 - Rose Creek

Total Segment Length: **3.90 miles**

BLM-administered Portion: **3.90 miles**

Hydrologic Unit: **Lower Gunnison**

Preliminary Classification: **Wild**

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: **Scenic**

9 - RIVER SEGMENT: ROSE CREEK
HYDROLOGIC UNIT: Lower Gunnison

***Segment will be evaluated for suitability during development of the Dominguez-Escalante RMP.**

Description: This perennial tributary of Little Dominguez Creek drains from the east side of the Uncompahgre Plateau and is within the Dominguez Canyon Wilderness Area. The creek's upper terminus is the confluence of Barkley Cabin Gulch and Corral Gulch, while the lower terminus is the UFO boundary. High flows primarily occur during spring snowmelt and occasional summer rain events. Perennial base flow occurs throughout most of this segment, which originates from multiple groundwater discharge points at the contact between the Entrada and Chinle geologic formations.

Lower Terminus - Latitude: 38° 42' 12.23" N; Longitude: 108° 26' 16.87" W
Upper Terminus - Latitude: 38° 40' 15.32" N; Longitude: 108° 28' 56.86" W

River Segment Ownership (in Miles):

BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL LENGTH	% FEDERAL
3.90				**3.90**	**100%**

Land Ownership within One-Half Mile Wide Corridor (in Acres):

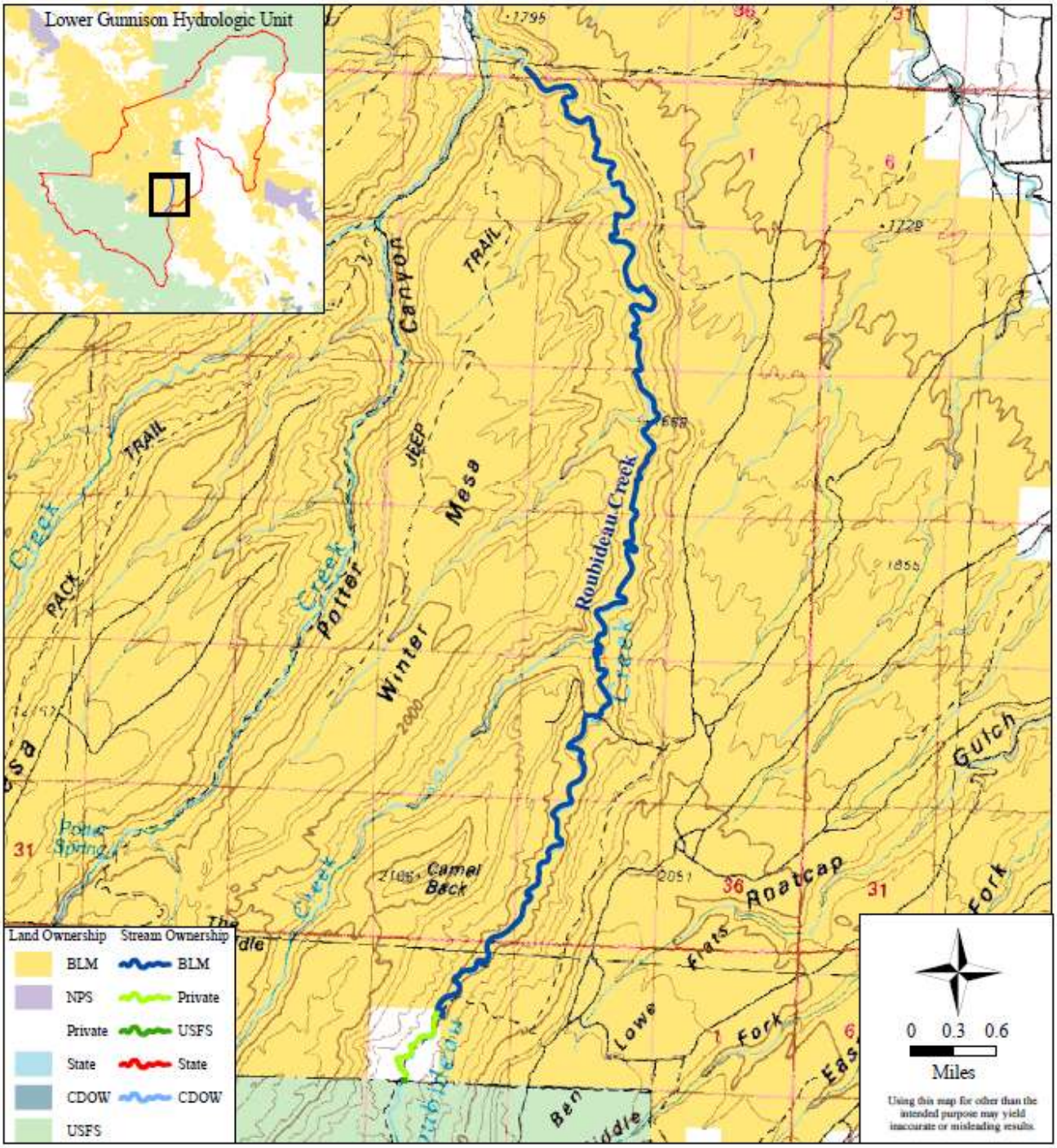
BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL ACRES	% FEDERAL
1,266.9	40.4			**1,307.3**	**100%**

***Outstandingly Remarkable Values:* Scenic**

1) Scenic - An interdisciplinary BLM field inventory team evaluated the area and assigned a ***Scenic Quality Classification of A***. The following observations were derived from their field notes: Rose Creek possesses very high scenic qualities that are rare in the area of comparison. Prominent vertical and horizontal cliffs, interesting erosional features, major rock outcroppings, narrow chasms and stepped ridgelines, together with dense and diverse vegetation especially in the canyon bottoms, make Rose Creek a visually spectacular landscape. Rock formations, small waterfalls, alcoves, hanging gardens, and pools add significantly to the area's visual character. Adjacent landforms provide rich color in contrasting shades of tan, pink, red, orange, brown, and blue. The surrounding vegetation contributes hues of green, gold, yellow, tan, and gray, completing the stunning scene.

***Preliminary Classification:* Wild**

Rationale - There are no water diversions, impoundments, or developments of any kind along this remote segment. The entire shoreline is primitive and not accessible by road or trail.



Map 10 - Roubideau Creek, Segment 1

Total Segment Length: **10.74 miles**

BLM-administered Portion: **10.00 miles**

Hydrologic Unit: **Lower Gunnison**

Preliminary Classification: **Wild**

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: **Recreational, Wildlife, Cultural, Vegetation**

10 - RIVER SEGMENT: ROUBIDEAU CREEK, SEGMENT 1
HYDROLOGIC UNIT: Lower Gunnison

Description: Roubideau Creek is a perennial tributary of the Gunnison River that drains from the east side of the Uncompahgre Plateau. High flows typically occur during spring snowmelt. The upper terminus of this segment is the boundary with the Uncompahgre National Forest, while the lower terminus is the north boundary of Camelback Wilderness Study Area (WSA).

Lower Terminus - Latitude: 38° 38' 9.10" N; Longitude: 108° 11' 23.20" W
Upper Terminus - Latitude: 38° 31' 59.00" N; Longitude: 108° 12' 3.16" W

River Segment Ownership (in Miles):

BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL LENGTH	% FEDERAL
10.00			0.74	**10.74**	**93%**

Land Ownership within One-Half Mile Wide Corridor (in Acres):

BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL ACRES	% FEDERAL
2,703.0	< 0.1		148.6	**2,851.6**	**94.8%**

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: **Recreational, Wildlife, Cultural, Vegetation**

1) Recreational - This section of Roubideau Creek lies entirely within Camelback WSA and provides outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. Activities include hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, photography, nature study, and other non-mechanized uses. There is vehicle access at the lower terminus of the segment. The natural appearance of this perennial stream and associated riparian area within a highly scenic, wilderness-quality canyon offer superior opportunities for non-mechanized recreation in a primitive setting.

2) Wildlife - The area has been designated as a potential conservation area for the northern leopard frog (*Rana pipiens*), which is known to occur along this reach. This species has been petitioned for listing and is currently under status review by the FWS, and a twelve-month finding is pending; i.e., listing of the species throughout all or a significant portion of its range may be warranted. This section of Roubideau Creek is also regionally important habitat for desert bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis*). The lower end of the creek is used extensively as a water source by this species, while the cliffs above are used for lambing.

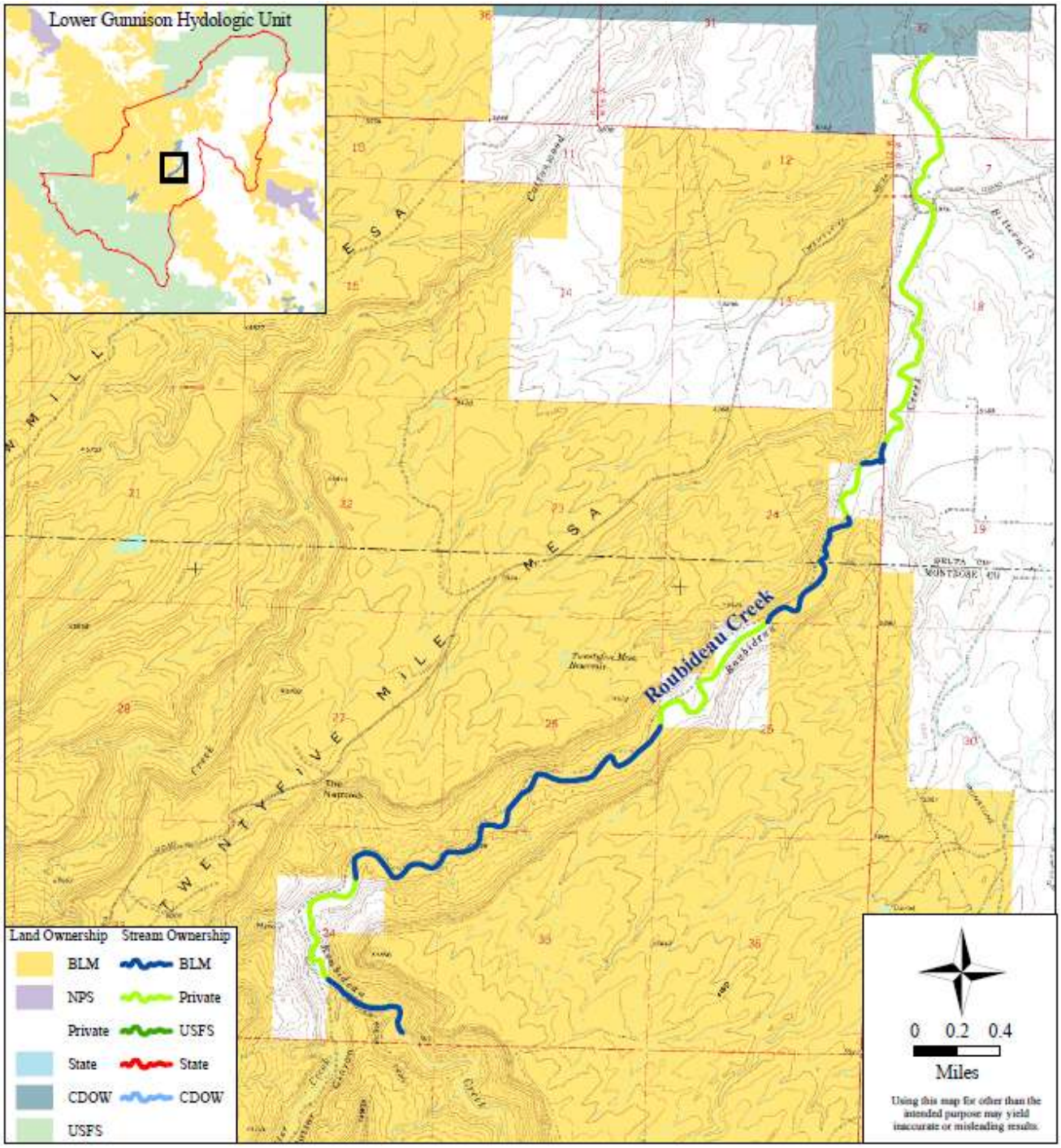
3) Cultural - The stream flows past an inscription panel of extreme historic significance. In 1769, the site was visited by Juan Maria Rivera at the behest of the king of Spain. Rivera was the first European explorer to enter what later became Colorado, and was responsible for the route of the later Escalante and Dominguez party in 1776. Rivera left his name and a date carved into a rock face at this site. Other rock art on the panel includes a prehistoric mountain sheep figure. This site qualifies for and has been nominated to the NRHP under ***Criterion A***: *Associated with*

events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history, ***Criterion B***: *Associated with the lives of persons important in our past*, and ***Criterion D***: *Yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory*.

4) Vegetation - This segment contains areas of Fremont cottonwood/skunkbush sumac riparian woodland (*Populus Fremontei/Rhus trilobata*) which are classified as globally imperiled (G2). Areas of globally imperiled (G2) skunkbush sumac/sandbar willow riparian shrubland (*Rhus trilobata/Salix exigua*) also occur along this segment. The segment lies within the CNHP-designated Roubideau Creek Potential Conservation Area.

Preliminary Classification: **Wild**

Rationale - Although there are no roads or water diversions along this stretch of Roubideau Creek, a large diversion upstream significantly reduces water flow. The shoreline is essentially primitive. The only evidence of human activity is single track trails that cross the creek.



Map 11 - Roubideau Creek, Segment 2

Total Segment Length: **7.59 miles**

BLM-administered Portion: **3.45 miles**

Hydrologic Unit: **Lower Gunnison**

Preliminary Classification: **Scenic**

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: **Wildlife, Vegetation**

11 - RIVER SEGMENT: ROUBIDEAU CREEK, SEGMENT 2
HYDROLOGIC UNIT: Lower Gunnison

Description: Roubideau Creek is a perennial tributary of the Gunnison River that drains from the east side of the Uncompahgre Plateau. High flows typically occur during spring snowmelt and from runoff generated by occasional summer thunderstorm activity. The upper terminus of this segment is the north boundary of Camelback WSA, while the lower terminus is along the boundary of lands managed by the State of Colorado, approximately three miles upstream from the Gunnison River confluence.

Lower Terminus - Latitude: 38° 42' 10.67" N; Longitude: 108° 8' 49.95" W
Upper Terminus - Latitude: 38° 38' 9.10" N; Longitude: 108° 11' 23.20" W

River Segment Ownership (in Miles):

BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL LENGTH	% FEDERAL
3.45			4.14	**7.59**	**45.5%**

Land Ownership within One-Half Mile Wide Corridor (in Acres):

BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL ACRES	% FEDERAL
1,326.7		33.1	844.9	**2,204.7**	**60.2%**

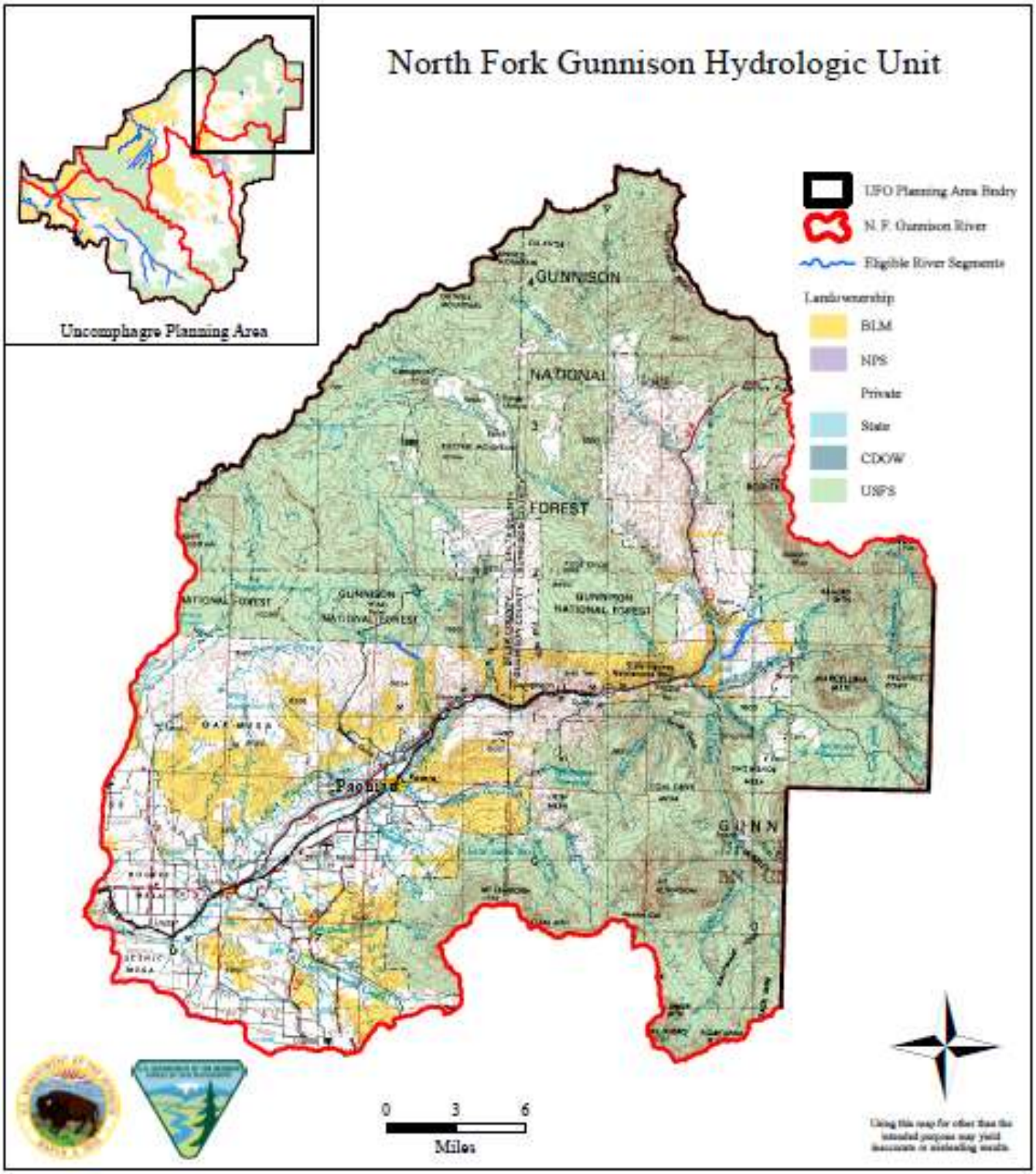
Outstandingly Remarkable Values: **Wildlife, Vegetation**

1) Wildlife - This area has been designated as a potential conservation area for the northern leopard frog *(Rana pipiens)*, which is known to occur along this reach. This species has been petitioned for listing and is currently under status review by the FWS. A twelve-month finding is pending which will determine whether listing of this species throughout all or a significant portion of its range may be warranted. This section of Roubideau Creek is also regionally important habitat for desert bighorn sheep *(Ovis canadensis)*. The creek is used extensively as a water source by this species, while the cliffs above are used for lambing.

2) Vegetation - This section of Roubideau Creek contains areas of Fremont cottonwood/ skunkbush sumac riparian woodland *(Populus deltoides spp. wislizenii/Rhus trilobata)*, which is classified as globally imperiled (G2). The segment is included within the CNHP-designated Roubideau Creek Potential Conservation Area.

Preliminary Classification: Scenic

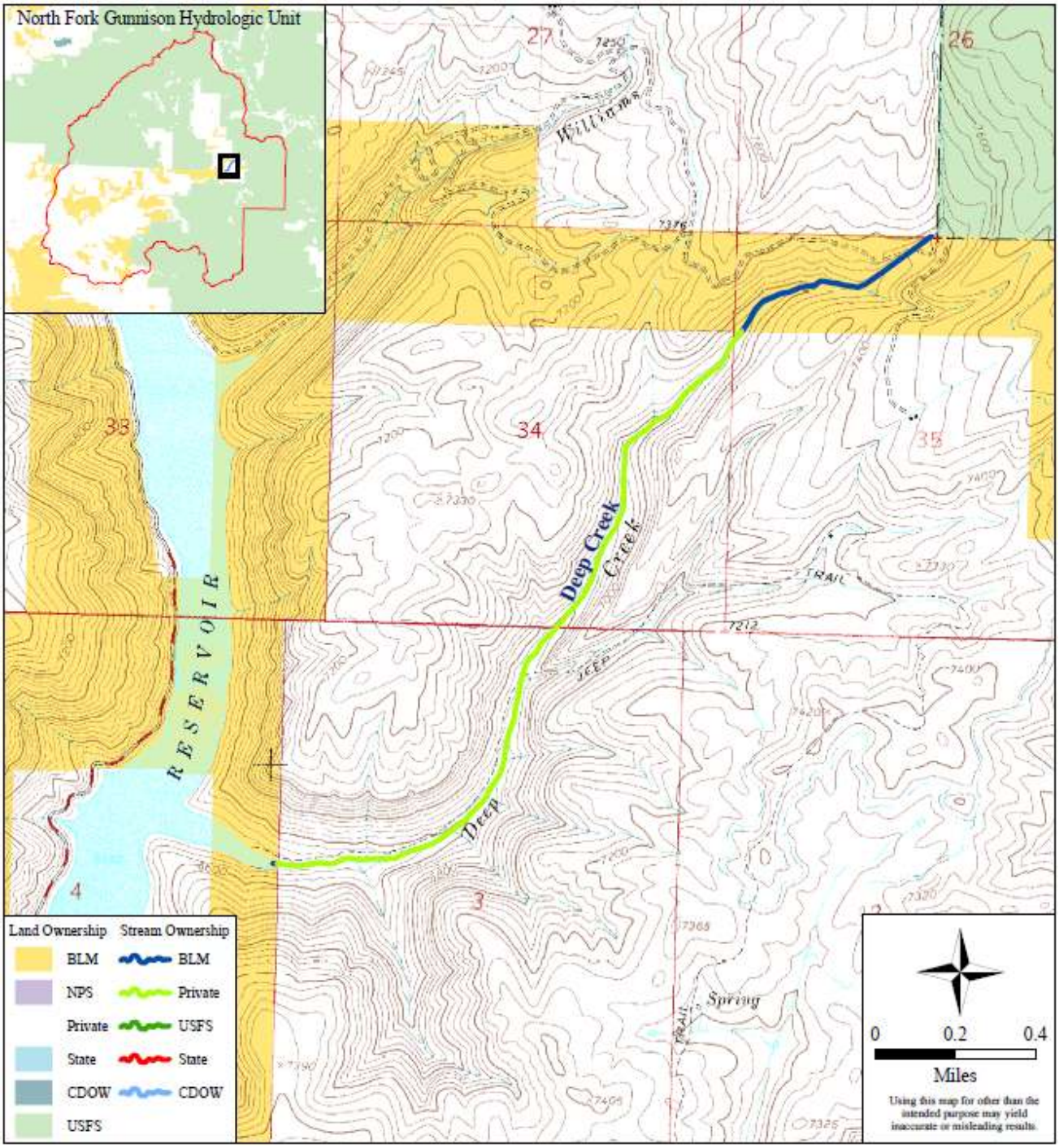
Rationale - Roads or trails parallel the creek along this entire segment. There is an unhardened road ford near the upper terminus and a county road bridge in the lower section. There are water diversions along this river segment. A large diversion near the headwaters significantly reduces the flow in this segment during irrigation season.



HYDROLOGIC UNIT 2 - NORTH FORK OF THE GUNNISON

Eligible Segments: **2**

12. Deep Creek
13. West Fork Terror Creek



Map 12 - Deep Creek

***Total Segment Length*: 2.55 miles**

***BLM-administered Portion:* 0.58 miles**

***Hydrologic Unit:* North Fork of the Gunnison**

***Preliminary Classification:* Scenic**

***Outstandingly Remarkable Values:* Fish**

12 - RIVER SEGMENT: DEEP CREEK
HYDROLOGIC UNIT: North Fork of the Gunnison

Description: Deep Creek is a perennial headwater stream that drains from the Ragged Mountains and discharges into Paonia Reservoir. High flows on this stream typically occur during spring snowmelt. The lower terminus of this segment is the confluence of Deep Creek with Paonia Reservoir along the North Fork of the Gunnison River, while the upper terminus is the upstream limit of BLM-managed lands.

Lower Terminus - Latitude: 38° 57' 16.77" N; Longitude: 107° 20' 1.39" W
Upper Terminus - Latitude: 38° 58' 40.89" N; Longitude: 107° 18' 13.85" W

River Segment Ownership (in Miles):

BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL LENGTH	% FEDERAL
0.58			1.97	**2.55**	**22.7%**

Land Ownership within One-Half Mile Wide Corridor (in Acres):

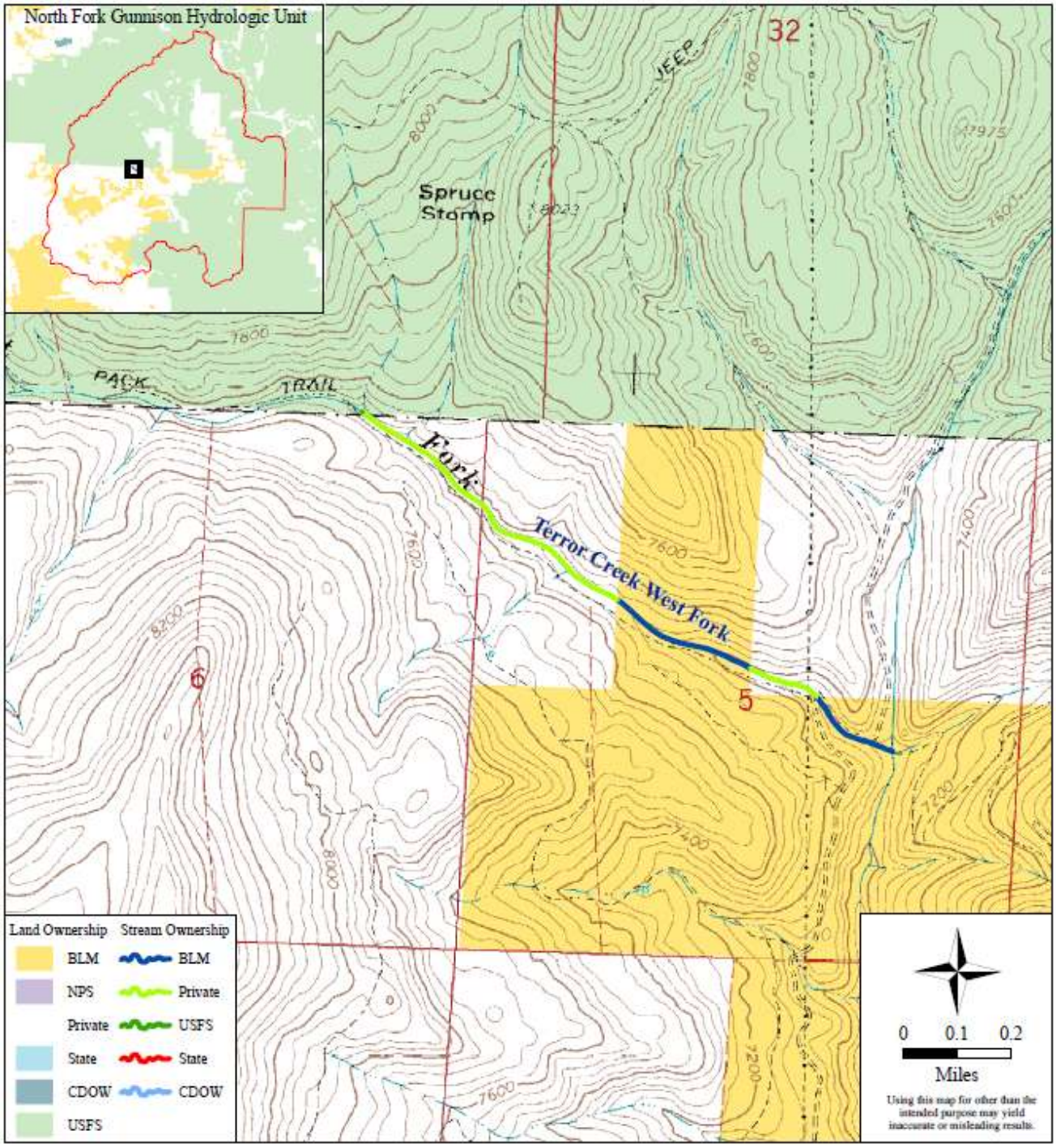
BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL ACRES	% FEDERAL
127.7			680.2	**807.9**	**15.8%**

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: **Fish**

1) Fish - Based upon the best available genetic information, this river segment harbors a genetically pure population of greenback cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki stomias*), a species listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. This is one of 37 known greenback populations on the west slope of Colorado.

Preliminary Classification: **Scenic**

Rationale - An unsurfaced road crosses Deep Creek via an unhardened ford within and near the upper terminus. The remaining river channel and associated corridor are primitive and undeveloped. There are irrigation diversions upstream from this reach.



Map 13 - West Fork Terror Creek

Total Segment Length: **1.21 miles**

BLM-administered Portion: **0.47 miles**

Hydrologic Unit: **North Fork of the Gunnison**

Preliminary Classification: **Scenic**

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: **Fish**

13 - RIVER SEGMENT: WEST FORK TERROR CREEK
HYDROLOGIC UNIT: North Fork of the Gunnison

Description: The West Fork of Terror Creek is a perennial headwater stream on the southern flank of Grand Mesa north of Paonia. The creek drains into Terror Creek, which is a tributary of the North Fork of the Gunnison River. The lower terminus of this river segment is its confluence with East Terror Creek, while the upper terminus is the boundary of Grand Mesa National Forest.

Lower Terminus - Latitude: 38° 56' 53.88" N; Longitude: 107° 34' 28.65" W
Upper Terminus - Latitude: 38° 57' 25.28" N; Longitude: 107° 35' 35.84" W

River Segment Ownership (in Miles):

BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL LENGTH	% FEDERAL
0.47			0.74	**1.21**	**39.2%**

Land Ownership within One-Half Mile Wide Corridor (in Acres):

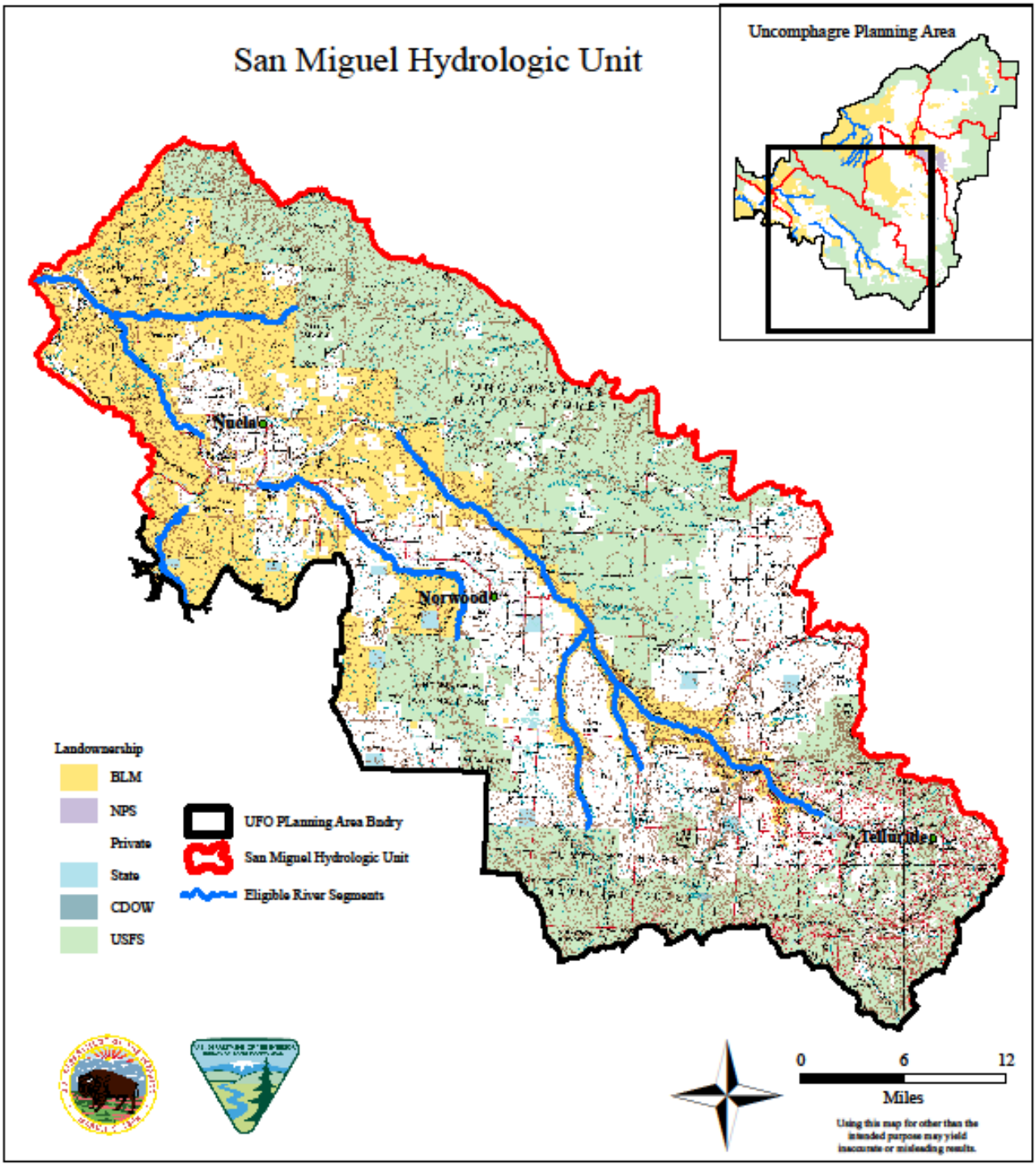
BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL ACRES	% FEDERAL
151.3	31.8		202.4	**385.5**	**47.5%**

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: **Fish**

1) Fish - Based upon the best available genetic information, this river segment harbors a genetically pure population of greenback cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki stomias*), a species listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. This is one of 37 greenback populations currently identified on the west slope of Colorado.

Preliminary Classification: **Scenic**

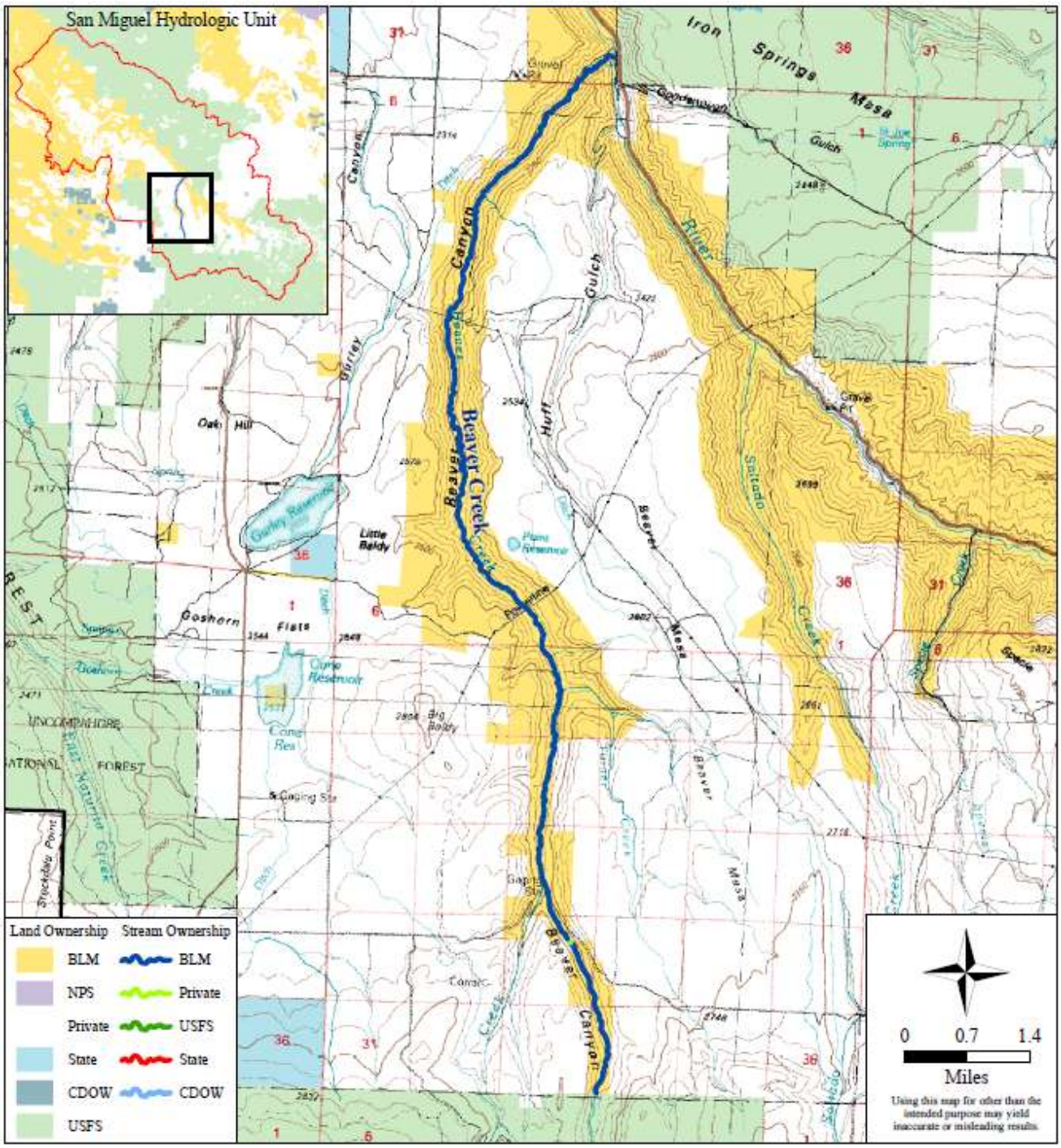
Rationale - An unsurfaced road crosses the West Fork of Terror Creek near its confluence with Terror Creek. The remaining river channel and associated corridor are primitive and undeveloped. There is a small impoundment known as Holy Terror Reservoir, as well as Grand Mesa Canal Head Gate #4, an irrigation diversion upstream of the reach.



HYDROLOGIC UNIT 3 - SAN MIGUEL

Eligible River Segments: **11**

14. Beaver Creek
15. Dry Creek, Segment 1
16. Naturita Creek
17. Saltado Creek
18. San Miguel River, Segment 1
19. San Miguel River, Segment 2
20. San Miguel River, Segment 3
21. San Miguel River, Segment 5
22. San Miguel River, Segment 6
23. Tabeguache Creek, Segment 1
24. Tabeguache Creek, Segment 2



Map 14 - Beaver Creek

Total Segment Length: **14.25 miles**

BLM-administered Portion: **14.19 miles**

Hydrologic Unit: **San Miguel**

Preliminary Classification: **Scenic**

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: **Vegetation**

14 - RIVER SEGMENT: BEAVER CREEK
HYDROLOGIC UNIT: San Miguel

Description: Beaver Creek is a perennial tributary of the San Miguel River with its headwaters in the San Juan Mountains. High flows usually occur in spring from mountain snowmelt. The upper terminus is the boundary between BLM-managed lands and the Uncompahgre National Forest, while the lower terminus is the confluence of Beaver Creek and the San Miguel River.

Lower Terminus - Latitude: 38° 6' 20.84" N; Longitude: 108° 11' 14.48" W
Upper Terminus - Latitude: 37° 56' 14.01" N; Longitude: 108° 11' 1.82" W

River Segment Ownership (in Miles):

BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL LENGTH	% FEDERAL
14.19			0.06	**14.25**	**99.5%**

Land Ownership within One-Half Mile Wide Corridor (in Acres):

BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL ACRES	% FEDERAL
3,707.4	2.7		583.1	**4,293.2**	**86.4%**

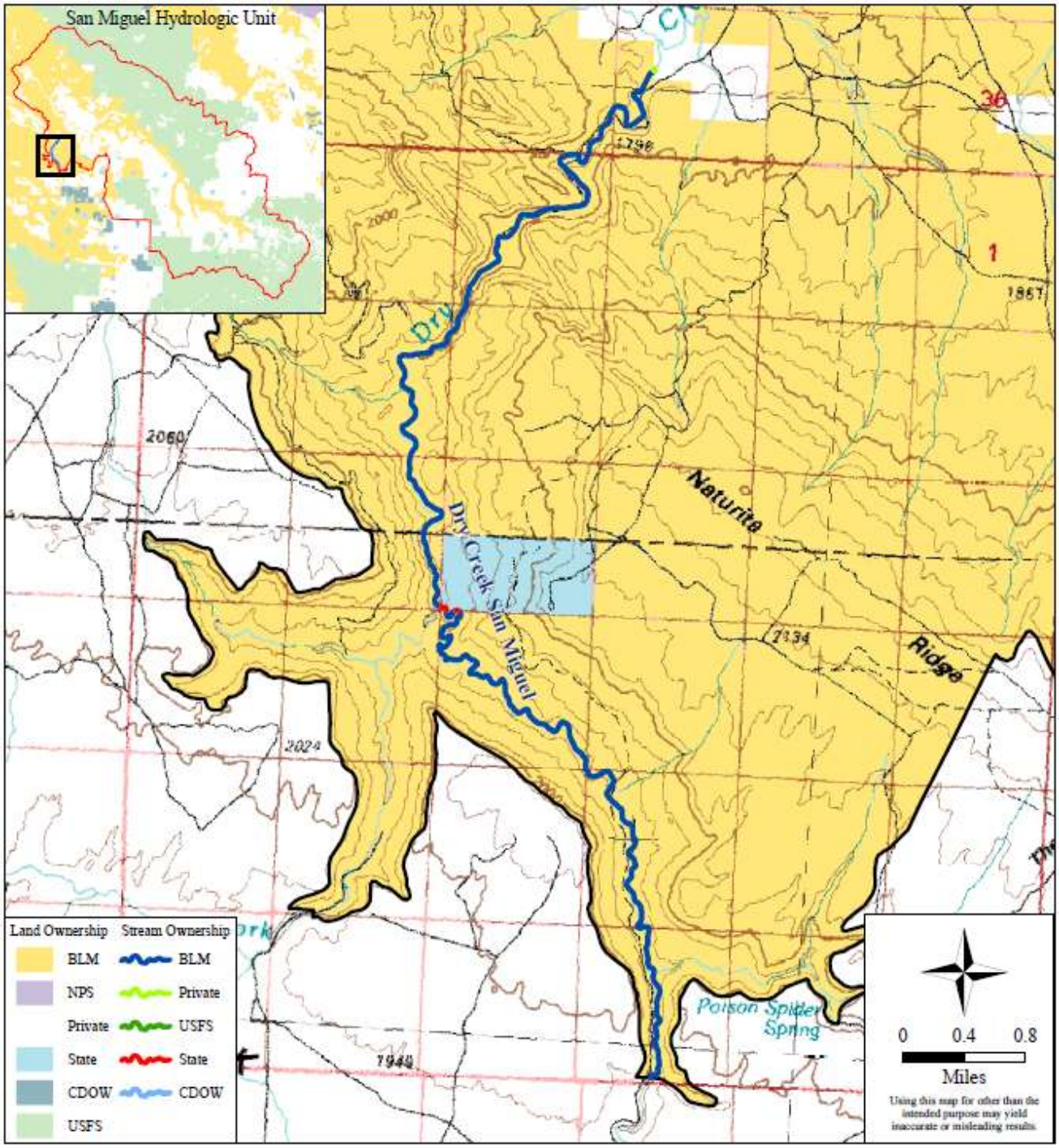
Outstandingly Remarkable Values: **Vegetation**

1) Vegetation - This segment supports a superior (A-ranked) occurrence of globally vulnerable (G3) narrowleaf cottonwood/blue spruce/thinleaf alder riparian forest (*Populus angustifolia/Picea pungens/Alnus tenuifolia*) along several miles of its length. The BLM has designated an area that includes this segment as part of the San Miguel ACEC, primarily in order to protect this outstanding riparian community.

Preliminary Classification: **Scenic**

Rationale - Beef Trail Road crosses Beaver Creek via a bridge approximately seven miles upstream from the mouth. An unsurfaced secondary road runs adjacent and parallel to the creek from the mouth upstream for an unknown distance. A power line crosses Beaver Canyon and is visible from the creek. A buried natural gas pipeline is located along the lower reach of the creek and is surface-laid where it descends along the side of Beaver Canyon.

The town of Norwood has a conditional water right to withdraw up to five cubic feet per second (cfs) from the San Miguel River upstream from Beaver Creek, along with a plan to convey the water to Norwood via a route similar to the natural gas pipline in the lower reach. The plan could require additional surface features in the vicinity of Beaver Creek, such as pump facilities and access roads. There are no water diversions along this river segment.



Map 15 - Dry Creek

Total Segment Length: **10.49 miles**

BLM-administered Portion: **10.42 miles**

Hydrologic Unit: **San Miguel**

Preliminary Classification: **Wild**

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: **Scenic, Geologic**

15 - RIVER SEGMENT: DRY CREEK
HYDROLOGIC UNIT: San Miguel

Description: Dry Creek is a large, intermittent tributary of the lower San Miguel River. The creek commonly experiences slightly elevated flows from snowmelt during April and May, although the highest flows result from runoff generated by summer thunderstorm activity, which is usually short-lived. The upper terminus is the BLM UFO boundary, while the lower terminus is the boundary between BLM and private land at an area known as the "Coke Ovens."

Lower Terminus - Latitude: 38° 11' 50.57" N; Longitude: 108° 37' 36.51" W
Upper Terminus - Latitude: 38° 6' 8.52" N; Longitude: 108° 37' 21.21" W

River Segment Ownership (in Miles):

BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL LENGTH	% FEDERAL
10.42		0.07		**10.49**	**99.3%**

Land Ownership within One-Half Mile Wide Corridor (in Acres):

BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL ACRES	% FEDERAL
2,760.4		80.7	2.8	**2,843.9**	**97.1%**

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: **Scenic, Geologic**

1) Scenic - An interdisciplinary BLM field inventory team evaluated the area and assigned a ***Scenic Quality Classification of A***. The following observations were derived from their field notes: While the vegetation does not vary greatly, and Dry Creek is not a dominant feature in the landscape, rich colors and strong contrast between rocks, soil, and vegetation make it a visually exceptional area. Steep canyons and vertical relief contribute to the scenic qualities, while the adjacent scenery moderately enhances the view. The scenic quality of Dry Creek is distinctive in the region, although it cannot be classified as either common or one of a kind. A small two-track dirt route follows the creek through this reach.

   The segment of the creek that crosses the anticline valley cuts gradually down through a variety of colorful rock strata, crosses the axis of the anticline, then because of a dramatic change in the tilt of strata, the creek rapidly and dramatically ascends back through those same layers. This section is very scenic and distinctive, whereas the segments above and below it possess scenic qualities common to the region of comparison. This fairly small segment provides an exceptional example of a creek cutting across a valley, with dramatic visual features in an area with only minor cultural modifications.

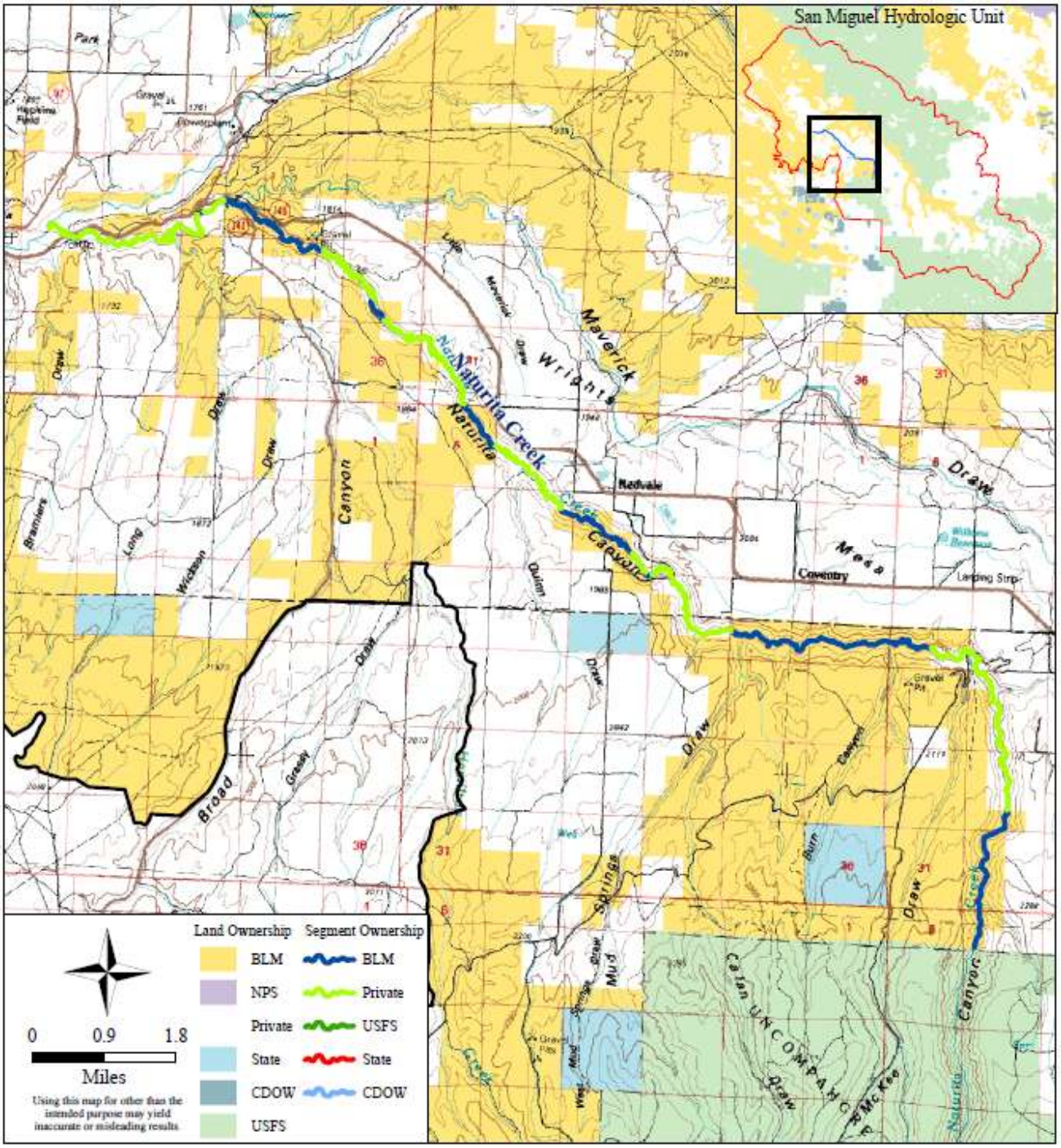
2) Geologic - Dry Creek offers a rare opportunity to observe earth processes in a localized setting, while at the same time providing an example of a relatively young geologic structure exposed in an area of low precipitation. This feature is in many ways similar to the much larger

Paradox Basin, located only a few miles to the northwest. The Paradox Basin is a geologic structural anticline that has at its core the Pennsylvanian age Paradox Formation, a halitic evaporite. Over time, water has partially dissolved the salt core, causing the axis of the anticline to collapse, and creating a valley with walls that dip away in either direction. The anticline is asymmetric, with the southwest limb having a shallow dip and the northeast limb having a steep dip. The Dolores River has carved a channel across and perpendicular to this collapsed valley, forming the geological 'paradox' for which the valley is named.

The Paradox Anticline has affected Triassic to Jurassic age sediments in the Dry Creek area, where a prominent north-west trending normal fault forms a southeasterly extension of the anticline's axis. Erosion has created a pair of valleys along this fault trace, with the Dry Creek drainage crosscutting this feature much as the Dolores River cuts across Paradox Valley. However, while the Paradox Valley is about 28 miles long, the Dry Creek feature is only about two miles in length. This unique geologic feature contradicts our basic understanding of erosional processes, as the down-cutting creek flows across, rather than through the valley, revealing the paradox of Paradox Valley at a fraction of the scale. Dry Creek may well be regarded as one of the more intriguing geologic features in the region.

Preliminary Classification: **Wild**

Rationale - The shoreline of this river segment is essentially primitive, with the exception of an old, unused roadbed along portions. There are no water diversions or impoundments along this river reach.



Map 16 - Naturita Creek

Total Segment Length: **24.97 miles**

BLM-administered Portion: **9.99 miles**

Hydrologic Unit: **San Miguel**

Preliminary Classification: **Scenic**

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: **Fish**

16 - RIVER SEGMENT: NATURITA CREEK
HYDROLOGIC UNIT: San Miguel

Description: Naturita Creek is a perennially flowing tributary of the lower San Miguel River. The creek experiences high flows from spring snowmelt and runoff generated by summer thunderstorm activity. The upper terminus of this segment is the intersection of the stream with the Uncompahgre National Forest boundary. The lower terminus is the confluence of Naturita Creek and the San Miguel River.

Lower Terminus - Latitude: 38° 13' 6.44" N; Longitude: 108° 32' 57.29" W
Upper Terminus - Latitude: 38° 5' 40.99" N; Longitude: 108° 19' 52.29" W

River Segment Ownership (in Miles):

BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL LENGTH	% FEDERAL
9.99			14.98	**24.97**	**40%**

Land Ownership within One-Half Mile Wide Corridor (in Acres):

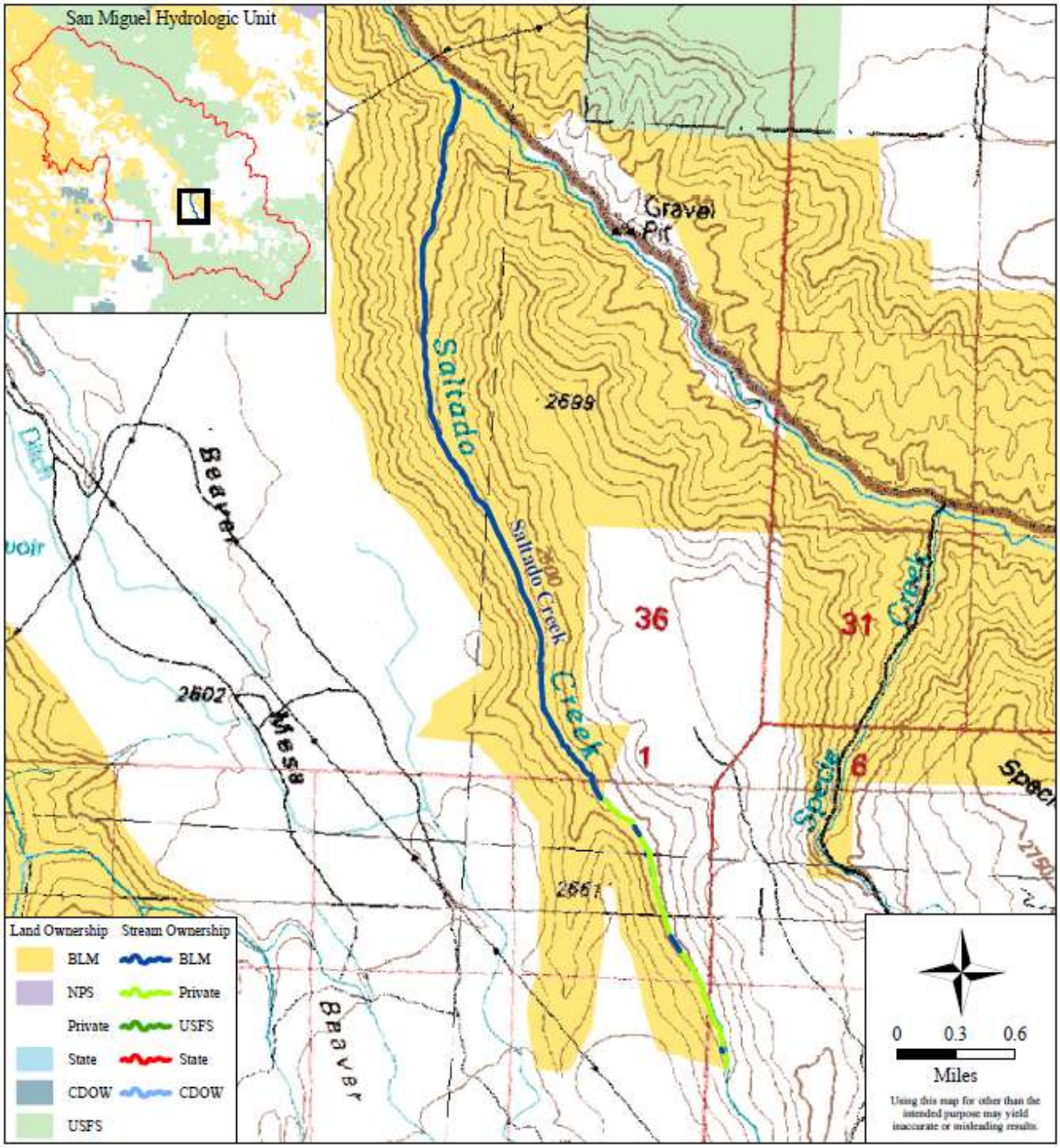
BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL ACRES	% FEDERAL
3,238.5	2.3		3,176.6	**6,417.4**	**50.5%**

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: **Fish**

1) Fish - Naturita Creek harbors exemplary populations of three BLM and Colorado sensitive species: flannelmouth suckers (*Catostomus latipinnis*), bluehead suckers (*Catostomus discobolus*), and roundtail chubs (*Gila robusta*). The river segment is one of only a very few spawning tributaries for these species in the San Miguel River Basin. In addition, the upper portion of this river segment is managed as a wild trout fishery.

Preliminary Classification: **Scenic**

Rationale - While no roads run parallel to Naturita Creek, at least five road crossings occur along it: two county road bridge crossings, two state highway bridge crossings, and one unimproved road crossing. There are water diversions along this reach, but no impoundments. Miramonte Reservoir, located several miles upstream from the upper terminus, regulates flow to some extent.



Map 17 - Saltado Creek

Total Segment Length: **5.56 miles**

BLM-administered Portion: **4.14 miles**

Hydrologic Unit: **San Miguel**

Preliminary Classification: **Wild**

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: **Vegetation**

17 - RIVER SEGMENT: SALTADO CREEK
HYDROLOGIC UNIT: San Miguel

Description: Saltado Creek is a perennially flowing tributary of the San Miguel River. Saltado Creek experiences high flows during spring snowmelt. The upper terminus of this segment is the intersection with the upper extent of BLM-managed lands. The lower terminus is the confluence of Saltado Creek and the San Miguel River.

Lower Terminus - Latitude: 38° 3' 38.56" N; Longitude: 108° 9' 24.71" W
Upper Terminus - Latitude: 37° 59' 19.95" N; Longitude: 108° 7' 41.62" W

River Segment Ownership (in Miles):

BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL LENGTH	% FEDERAL
4.14			1.42	**5.56**	**74.6%**

Land Ownership within One-Half Mile Wide Corridor (in Acres):

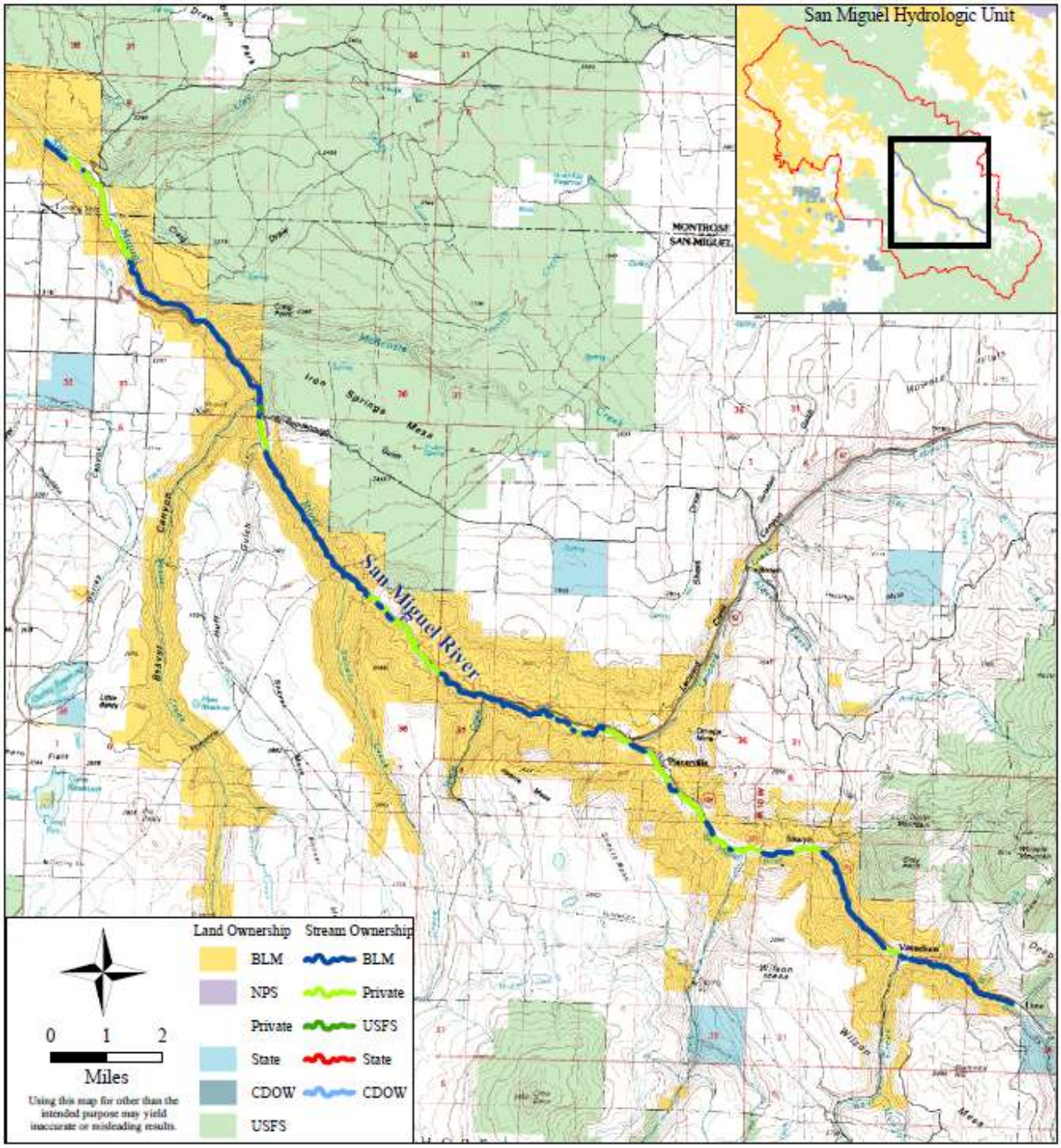
BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL ACRES	% FEDERAL
1,448.4			313.0	**1,761.4**	**82.2%**

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: **Vegetation**

1) Vegetation - This segment supports a superior (A-ranked) occurrence of globally vulnerable (G3) narrowleaf cottonwood/blue spruce/thinleaf alder riparian forest (*Populus angustifolia/Picea pungens/Alnus incana ssp. tenuifolia*) along several miles of its length. The BLM has designated an area which includes this segment as part of the San Miguel ACEC, primarily in order to protect these outstanding riparian communities.

Preliminary Classification: **Wild**

Rationale - The shoreline of this river segment is primitive, with no roads, water diversions, or other developments along it.



Map 18 - San Miguel River, Segment 1

Total Segment Length: **27.23 miles**
BLM-administered Portion: **17.34 miles**
Hydrologic Unit: **San Miguel**
Preliminary Classification: **Recreational**
Outstandingly Remarkable Values: **Scenic, Recreational, Wildlife, Historic, Vegetation, Paleontology**

18 - RIVER SEGMENT: SAN MIGUEL RIVER, SEGMENT 1
HYDROLOGIC UNIT: San Miguel

Description: The San Miguel River flows perennially, with low flows occuring during fall and early winter months, and high flows occuring during spring snowmelt. The upper terminus of this segment is the BLM/private land boundary, immediately downstream of its confluence with Deep Creek. The lower terminus is the BLM/private land boundary, downstream of the San Miguel River's confluence with Clay Creek. This river segment is in a narrow, sinuous and confined canyon, deeply incised through sedimentary rock formations.

Lower Terminus - Latitude: 38° 10' 17.90" N; Longitude: 108° 15' 38.92" W
Upper Terminus - Latitude: 37° 57' 19.00" N; Longitude: 107° 56' 0.71" W

River Segment Ownership (in Miles):

BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL LENGTH	% FEDERAL
17.34	0.08		9.81	**27.23**	**64%**

Land Ownership within One-Half Mile Wide Corridor (in Acres):

BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL ACRES	% FEDERAL
6,679.2	136.0		1,628.8	**8,444.0**	**80.7%**

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: **Scenic, Recreational, Wildlife, Historic, Vegetation, Paleontology**

1) Scenic - An interdisciplinary BLM field inventory team evaluated the area and assigned a ***Scenic Quality Classification of A***. The following observations were derived from their field notes:

   Deep Creek to Leopard Creek - Stunning views of the San Juan mountain range enhance an array of landscapes with strong vertical relief and interesting erosional patterns. The surrounding vegetation provides wonderful color and contrast, with the river a major contributor to the landscape. This section of river is boulder-strewn with a constant strong gradient. The energetic, splashy flow is the keystone to the scenic quality of this reach. Thick, diverse riparian vegetation provides additional scenic value, changing in color and density through the growing season. Some modifications, including a road, power line, and scattered structures detract somewhat from the impact of the scene.

   Leopard Creek to Cascabel - A variety of vegetation with interesting features contributes to the exceptional beauty of this section of the San Miguel. This section of river is boulder-strewn with a constant strong gradient. The energetic, splashy flow is the keystone to the scenic quality of this reach. Thick, diverse riparian vegetation provides additional scenic value, changing in color and density through the growing season. The river somewhat dominates the landscape, while the color and contrast provided by steep canyons and interesting erosional

patterns add to the visual appeal. There are a few modifications, including power lines and roads that detract from the scenery.

2) Recreational - This segment of the San Miguel River provides superior opportunities for river recreation. During the snowmelt season, whitewater rafters and kayakers are challenged by the swift currents and complex hydraulics of this boulder-strewn river. Outside of the snowmelt season, the river provides excellent opportunities for trout fishing on complex pocket water. Fishing enthusiasts may access the river via foot or raft. The river is easily accessed via paved highway and contains a number of high-quality BLM river-related recreation sites, including six developed boat launch sites, one campground, six picnic areas, and one interpretive center.

   The river's reputation for outstanding recreational opportunities, combined with the availability of commercial guiding services, consistently draw visitors from around the world. This section also provides exceptional opportunities for sightseeing and photography along the Unaweep-Tabeguache Byway. The byway is marketed to visitors from within Colorado, out of state, and internationally by the Unaweep-Tabeguache Byway Committee and the Colorado Office of Tourism. The entire segment is within the San Miguel River Special Recreation Management Area.

3) Wildlife - Portions of the river corridor in this segment represent one of the finest protected Southwest Canyon Riparian Habitat sites in the United States. The Southwest Canyon Riparian Habitat is recognized as the richest terrestrial bird habitat type in North America, providing breeding sites for a wide variety of species, and primary migratory routes for nearly all songbirds throughout the western United States. More than 300 bird species have been observed in the San Miguel River corridor (National Audubon Society 2010).

4) Historic - Remnants of an old railroad grade follow along much of this section. The Rio Grande Southern Railroad operated a fleet of seven unusual railcars along a narrow gauge track from the 1930s until service ended in 1952, at which point the line was quickly decommissioned. The rail line was known as the Galloping Goose. Built from car, truck, and bus parts, the lightweight "motors" proved to be an economical method for transporting mail and passengers between Durango and Ridgway.

   The remains of historic uranium ore processing loadout areas are also present along this stretch. The site qualifies for nomination to the NRHP under Criterion A: Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history.

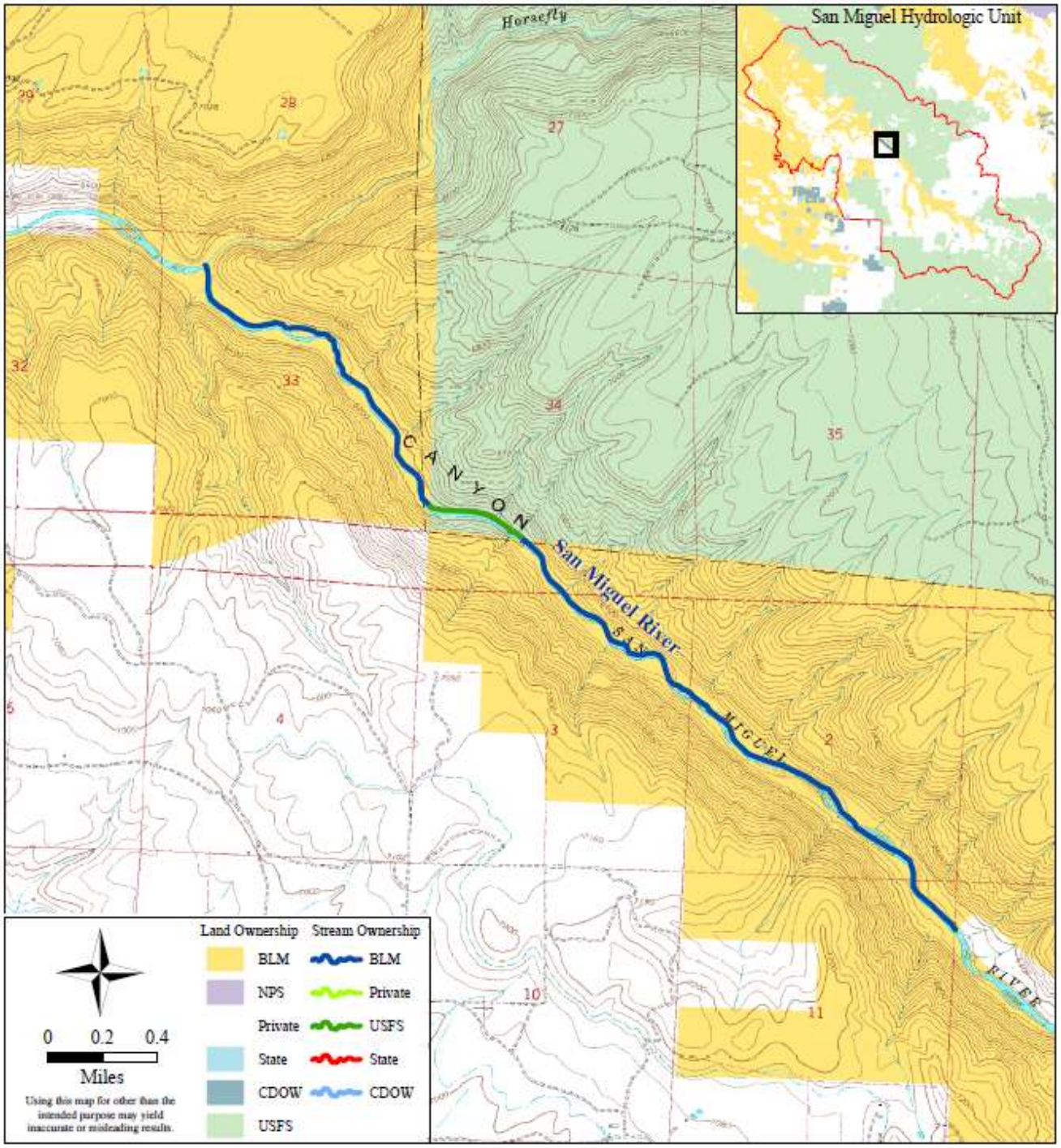
5) Vegetation - This reach contains numerous occurrences of four globally vulnerable (G3) riparian communities. These include superior (A-ranked) occurrences of river birch/mesic graminoid riparian shrubland *(Betula occidentalis/mesic graminoids)*, narrowleaf cottonwood/blue spruce/thinleaf alder riparian forest *(Populus angustifolia/Picea pungens/Alnus incana ssp. tenuifolia)*, narrowleaf cottonwood/thinleaf alder riparian woodland *(Populus angustifolia/Alnus incana ssp. tenuifolia)*, and thinleaf alder/mesic graminoid riparian shrubland *(Alnus incana ssp.*

tenuifolia/mesic graminoids). The reach falls within the Middle San Miguel Potential Conservation Area. In addition, the BLM has designated an area which includes this segment as part of the San Miguel ACEC, primarily to protect these outstanding riparian communities.

6) Paleontology - For many miles, the canyon formed by the San Miguel River exposes chunks of the Morrison Formation, remnants of a one hundred million-year old river bed. This Jurassic-age river meandered eastward from the ancestral Rocky Mountains into immense inland seas. Many fossils, including rare fish, plants and fragmentary dinosaur bones, can be found in various places along this stretch.

Preliminary Classification: **Recreational**

Rationale - Colorado state highways parallel this river segment for most of its length. There are also several county road bridge crossings, and at least one unimproved road crossing (ford) at Beaver Creek. A powerline parallels the river within the riparian area for most of this segement. There are several recreational developments along this segment, including campgrounds, day use areas, and boat launches. An in-channel rock project exists about 1.5 miles downstream of Placerville, Colorado, with the intended purpose of stabilizing a laterally eroding reach of the river and protecting Colorado State Highway 145. There are water diversions on this river segment, but no impoundments.



Map 19 - San Miguel River, Segment 2

Total Segment Length: **4.01 miles**

BLM-administered Portion: **3.64 miles**

Hydrologic Unit: **San Miguel**

Preliminary Classification: **Wild**

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: **Scenic, Recreational, Wildlife, Vegetation**

19 - RIVER SEGMENT: SAN MIGUEL RIVER, SEGMENT 2
HYDROLOGIC UNIT: San Miguel

Description: The San Miguel River flows perennially, with low flows occurring during fall and early winter months, and high flows resulting from spring snowmelt. The upper terminus of this segment is the BLM/private land boundary downstream of its confluence with Clay Creek. The lower terminus is immediately above the confluence of the San Miguel and Horsefly Creek. The river in this section flows through a narrow, sinuous and confined canyon composed of deeply incised sedimentary rock.

Lower Terminus - Latitude: 38° 12' 19.52" N; Longitude: 108° 18' 46.13" W
Upper Terminus - Latitude: 38° 10' 17.90" N; Longitude: 108° 15' 38.92" W

River Segment Ownership (in Miles):

BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL LENGTH	% FEDERAL
3.64	0.37			**4.01**	**100%**

Land Ownership within One-Half Mile Wide Corridor (in Acres):

BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL ACRES	% FEDERAL
1,112.0	122.7		21.3	**1,256.0**	**98.3%**

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: **Scenic, Recreational, Wildlife, Vegetation**

1) Scenic - An interdisciplinary BLM field inventory team evaluated the area and assigned a Scenic Quality Classification of A. The following observations were derived from their field notes: The San Miguel flows clear and is a dominant element in this section. Complex erosional patterns combine with a diverse plant community to form a varied landscape in contrasting hues of green, red, yellow, orange, gray, tan and blue. The adjacent scenery contributes moderately to this river setting. This section of river is boulder-strewn and has a consistent gradient. The constant, energetic, splashy flow creates visually pleasing hydraulic features that are rare in the region of comparison. Riparian vegetation provides additional scenic value, changing in color and density through the growing season.

2) Recreational - This section of the San Miguel River offers a rare and extraordinary opportunity for primitive river recreation, as the riparian surroundings transition from the Rocky Mountain physiographic region of the upper San Miguel to the Colorado Plateau physiographic region of the lower San Miguel. With no roads or developments, this section appears primitive and natural. River recreation in this section includes rafting, kayaking and trout fishing, as part of long day or multi-day trips. This and the adjacent downstream segment support the San Miguel's best population of self-sustaining trout. There are several primitive BLM campsites

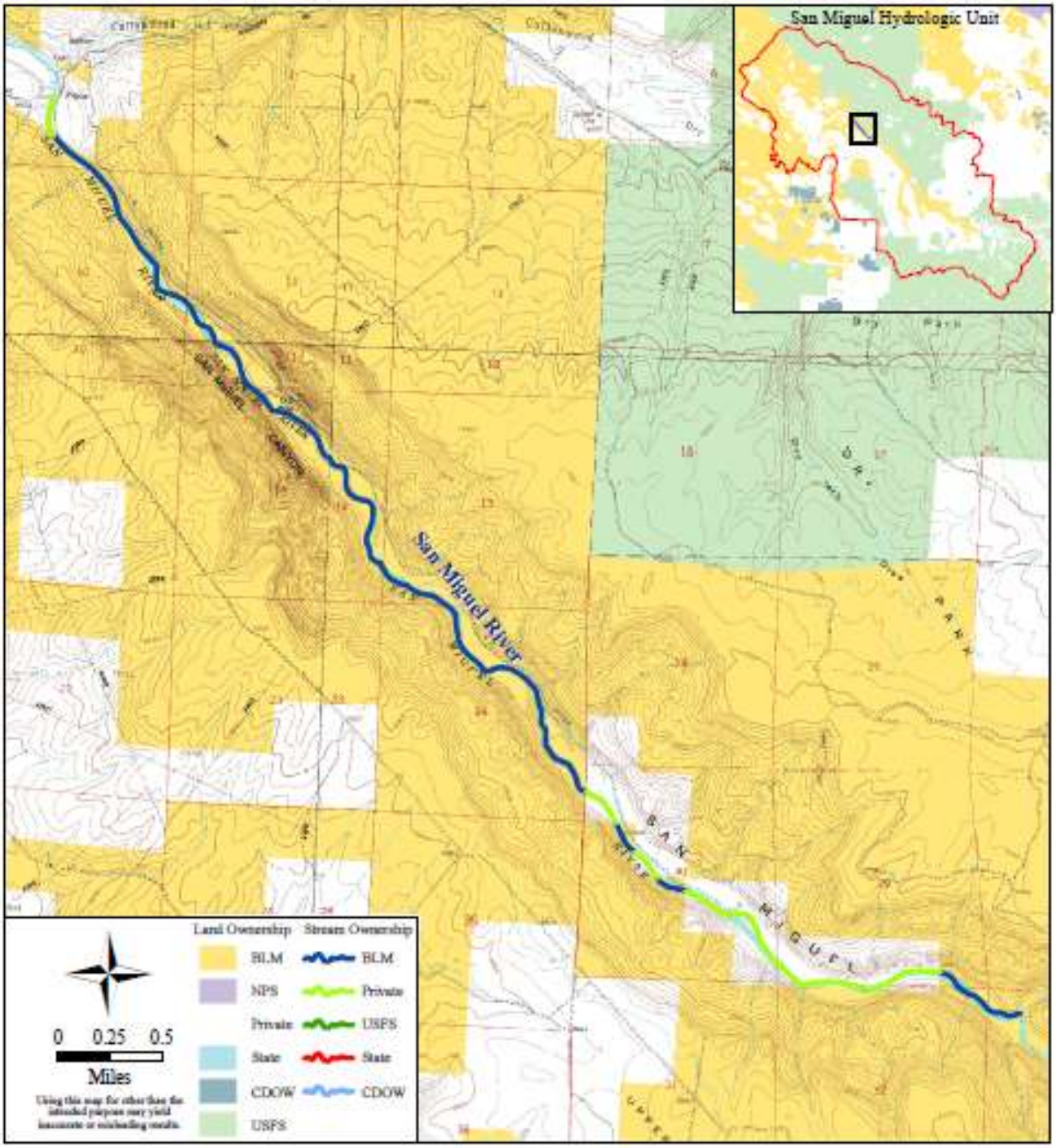
along the reach. The entire reach lies within the San Miguel Special Recreation Management Area, used by private and commercial river runners and trout fishers.

3) Wildlife - Portions of the river corridor in this segment represent one of the finest examples of protected Southwest Canyon Riparian Habitat in the United States. The Southwest Canyon Riparian Habitat is recognized as the richest terrestrial bird habitat type in North America, providing breeding sites for a wide variety of bird species and primary migratory routes for nearly all songbirds throughout the western United States. More than 300 bird species have been observed in the San Miguel River corridor (National Audubon Society 2010).

4) Vegetation - This segment supports five distinct and outstanding riparian communities. These include four superior (A-ranked) occurrences of communities classified as globally vulnerable (G3) thinleaf alder/mesic graminoid riparian shrubland (*Alnus incana ssp. tenuifolia/mesic graminoids)*, narrowleaf cottonwood/blue spruce/thinleaf alder riparian forest *(Populus angustifolia/Picea pungens/Alnus incana ssp. tenuifolia)*, narrowleaf cottonwood/thinleaf alder riparian woodland *(Populus angustifolia/Alnus incana ssp. tenuifolia)*, and river birch/mesic graminoid riparian shrubland *(Betula occidentalis/mesic graminoids)*. In addition, a superior (A-ranked) occurrence of blue spruce/red osier dogwood riparian forest *(Picea pungens/Cornus sericea)*, ranked as apparently secure (G4), occurs here as well. The site is included within the CNHP-designated San Miguel River, Clay Creek to Horsefly Creek Potential Conservation Area. The BLM has also designated an area which includes this segment as part of the San Miguel ACEC, primarily in order to protect these outstanding riparian communities.

Preliminary Classification: **Wild**

Rationale - A trail leading to the river boundary exists near the upper terminus, and an inconspicuous trail through riparian areas parallels the river for portions of this segment. There are no other developments or diversions along this segement. The shoreline is essentially primitive.



Map 20 - San Miguel River, Segment 3

Total Segment Length: **7.31 miles**

BLM-administered Portion: **5.30 miles**

Hydrologic Unit: **San Miguel**

Preliminary Classification: **Scenic**

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: **Recreational, Fish, Wildlife, Vegetation**

20 - RIVER SEGMENT: SAN MIGUEL RIVER, SEGMENT 3
HYDROLOGIC UNIT: San Miguel

Description: The San Miguel River flows perennially, with low flows occuring during fall and early winter months, and high flows resulting from spring snowmelt. The upper terminus of this segment is immediately upstream from the confluence of the San Miguel River and Horsefly Creek. The lower terminus is the Colorado State Highway 90 bridge crossing at the old townsite of Pinon.

Lower Terminus - Latitude: 38° 15' 59.44" N; Longitude: 108° 24' 4.57" W
Upper Terminus - Latitude: 38° 12' 19.52" N; Longitude: 108° 18' 46.13" W

River Segment Ownership (in Miles):

BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL LENGTH	% FEDERAL
5.30			2.01	**7.31**	**72.5%**

Land Ownership within One-Half Mile Wide Corridor (in Acres):

BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL ACRES	% FEDERAL
1,880.7			407.6	**2,288.3**	**82.2%**

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: **Recreational, Fish, Wildlife, Vegetation**

1) Recreational - This San Miguel River segment offers a rare and extraordinary opportunity for primitive river recreation, as the riparian surroundings transition from the Rocky Mountain physiographic region of the upper San Miguel to the Colorado Plateau physiographic region of the lower San Miguel. River recreation in this section includes rafting, kayaking and trout fishing, as part of long day or multi-day trips.

   With few developments and one minor dirt road not visible from the river, this section appears mostly primitive and natural. Several primitive BLM campsites dot the shoreline, and two developed campgrounds with boat ramps, toilets and picnic facilities are located along the lower third of the reach. Exceptionally good "play waves" form in the Ledges area during spring runoff and are sought by kayakers, who consider them to be some of the best natural features of their kind in the state.

   This and the adjacent upstream segment support the San Miguel's best population of self-sustaining trout. The entire reach lies within the San Miguel Special Recreation Management Area, used by private and commercial river runners and trout fishers.

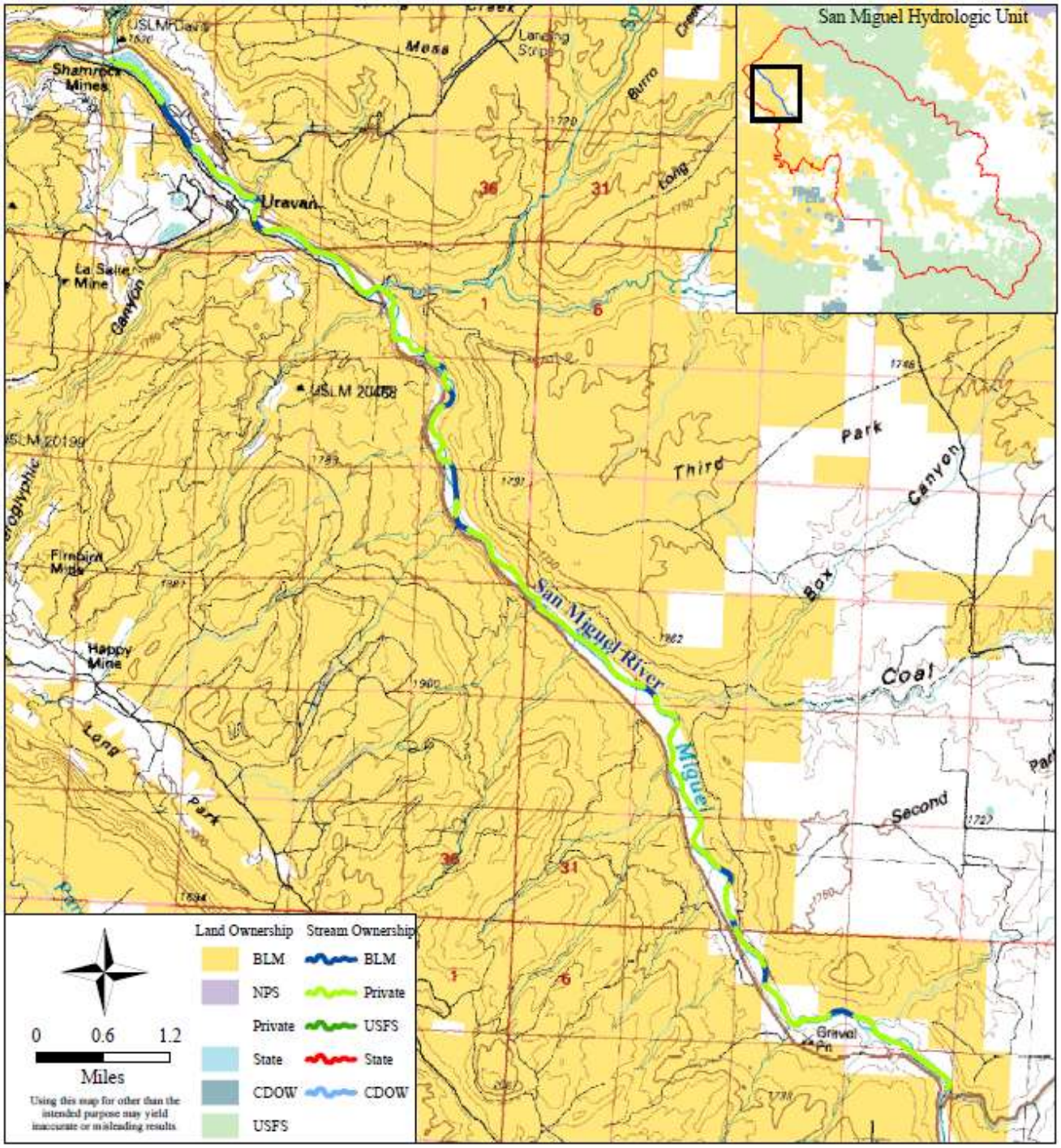
2) Fish - This segment harbors exemplary populations of three BLM and Colorado sensitive species: flannelmouth suckers *(Catostomus latipinnis)*, bluehead suckers *(Catostomus discobolus)*, and roundtail chubs *(Gila robusta)*.

3) Wildlife - Portions of the river corridor in this segment represent one of the finest areas of protected Southwest Canyon Riparian Habitat in the United States. The Southwest Canyon Riparian Habitat is recognized as the richest terrestrial bird habitat type in North America, providing breeding sites for a wide variety of bird species and primary migratory routes for nearly all songbirds throughout the western United States. More than 300 bird species have been observed in the San Miguel River corridor. The expanding Black Phoebe *(Sayornis nigricans)* population has been moving up the San Miguel River, as evidenced by a nest found at the Highway 90 Bridge at Piñon (National Audubon Society 2010).

4) Vegetation - This reach supports a superior (A-ranked) occurrence of sandbar willow *(Salix exigua/mesic graminoids)* riparian shrubland, ranked as secure globally (G5). The segment is included in the San Miguel River at Cottonwood Creek Potential Conservation Area.

Preliminary Classification: **Scenic**

Rationale - An unsurfaced road parallels but does not dominate the river corridor for most of this segment. BLM recreation sites are available for overnight camping, picnicking and boat launches within the river corridor. There are water diversions along this segment. The Highline Diversion, located downstream of Horsefly Creek, has a senior water right of 145 cfs and significantly depletes the San Miguel River during irrigation season. An overhead power line and a buried natural gas pipeline cross this segment.



Map 21 - San Miguel River, Segment 5

Total Segment Length: **14.00 miles**

BLM-administered Portion: **2.59 miles**

Hydrologic Unit: **San Miguel**

Preliminary Classification: **Recreational**

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: **Recreational, Fish, Historic, Vegetation**

21 - RIVER SEGMENT: SAN MIGUEL RIVER, SEGMENT 5
HYDROLOGIC UNIT: San Miguel

Description: The San Miguel River flows perennially, with low flows occuring during fall and early winter months, and high flows occurring during spring snowmelt and from runoff generated during summer thunderstorm activitiy. This segment of the river has an upper terminus at its confluence with Calamity Draw. The lower terminus is the confluence of the San Miguel River and Atkinson Creek.

Lower Terminus – Latitude: 38° 16' 13.17" N; Longitude: 108° 38' 39.27" W
Upper Terminus – Latitude: 38° 15' 23.86" N; Longitude: 108° 36' 49.95" W

River Segment Ownership (in Miles):

BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL LENGTH	% FEDERAL
2.59			11.41	**14.00**	**18.5%**

Land Ownership within One-Half Mile Wide Corridor (in Acres):

BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL ACRES	% FEDERAL
2,738.1			1,610.4	**4,348.5**	**63%**

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: **Recreational, Fish, Historic, Vegetation**

1) Recreational - This section of the San Miguel River provides exceptional opportunities for sightseeing and photography along the Unaweep-Tabeguache Byway. The byway is marketed to visitors from within Colorado, out of state, and internationally by the Unaweep-Tabeguache Byway Committee and by the Colorado Office of Tourism. This section of the byway focuses on the San Miguel River and its associated historic sites and surrounding landscape.

2) Fish - This segment supports exemplary populations of three BLM and Colorado sensitive species: flannelmouth suckers *(Catostomus latipinnis)*, bluehead suckers *(Catostomus discobolus)*, and roundtail chubs *(Gila robusta)*. This segment contains an intact native fishery and is regionally one of the best examples of a remnant native fishery. In addition, this segment was historically occupied by Colorado pikeminnow *(Ptychocheilus lucius)*, a federally endangered species.

3) Historic - This stretch of river marks the beginning of the historic Hanging Flume, one of the premier 19th century engineering accomplishments in the west. The thirteen-mile flume was constructed above the Dolores and San Miguel rivers over a three-year period in the late 1800s to supply water to a hydraulic placer gold mining operation. The structure was added to the NRHP in 1980, and was listed as one of Colorado's Most Endangered Places in 1999. In addition, the flume is listed on the Colorado State Register of Historic Properties, the World

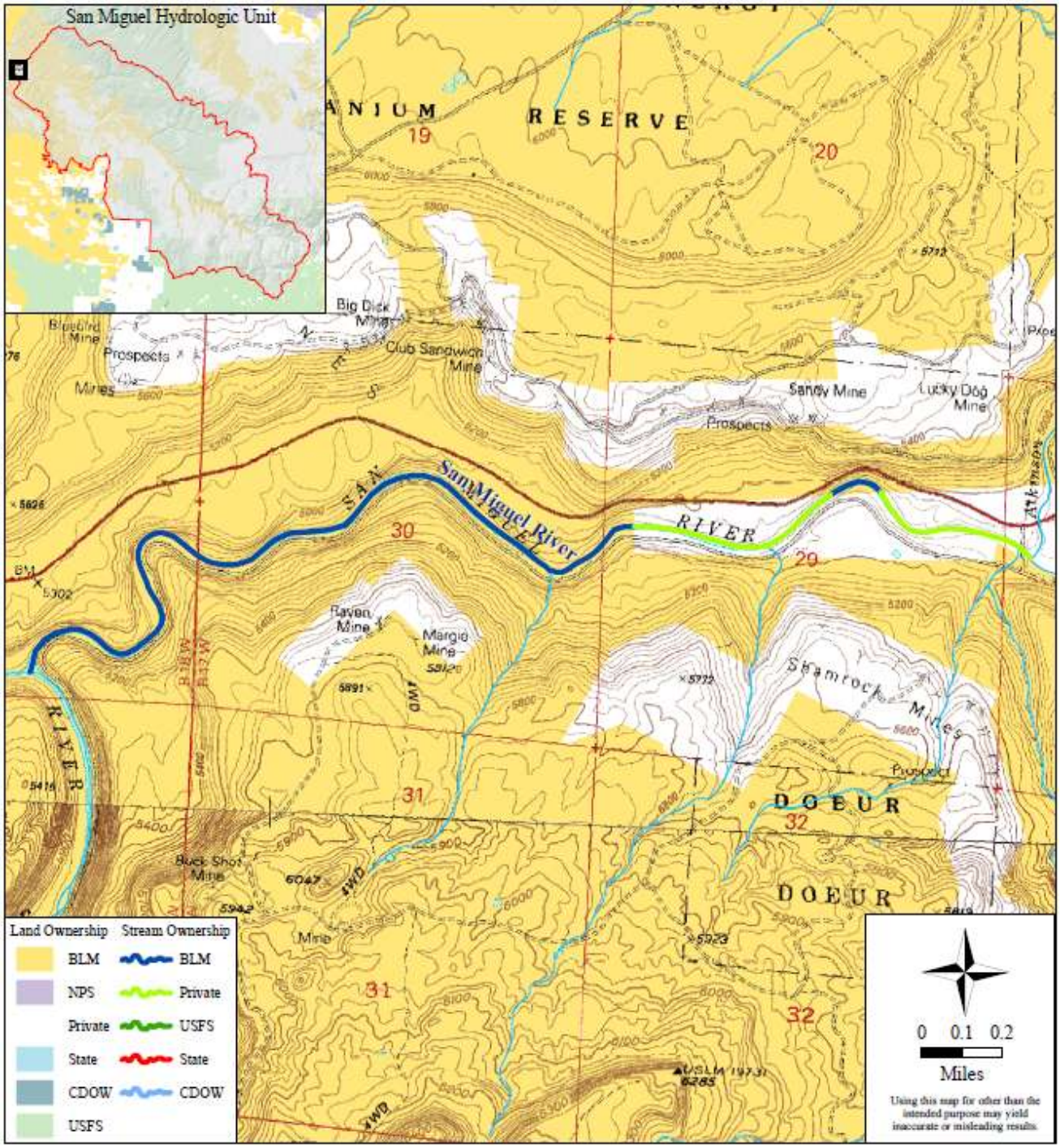
Heritage Fund's list of most endangered places and the 2006 World Monument Fund Watch List of 100 Most Endangered Sites.

Historic mining buildings and shafts, as well as remnants of the dismantled radium, uranium and vanadium mill town of Uravan, are also found along this stretch.

4) Vegetation - This segment supports New Mexico privet riparian shrubland *(Forestiera pubescens)*, Fremont cottonwood/skunkbush sumac riparian woodland *(Populus deltoides ssp. wislizeni/Rhus trilobata)* and skunkbush sumac riparian shrubland *(Rhus trilobata),* all ranked as globally imperiled (G2). The segment lies within the San Miguel River at Tabeguache Creek Potential Conservation Area.

Preliminary Classification: **Recreational**

Rationale - Colorado State Highway 141 parallels this river segment, although the highway is located on a bench well above the river for much of the segment. Two county road bridge crossings occur on this segment, with one county road running parallel for a short distance along the lower portion. The former mill town site of Uravan is near the lower terminus. There are water diversions on this river segment.



Map 22 - San Miguel River, Segment 6

Total Segment Length: **3.23 miles**

BLM-administered Portion: **2.25 miles**

Hydrologic Unit: **San Miguel**

Preliminary Classification: **Recreational**

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: **Recreational, Fish, Historic, Vegetation**

22 - RIVER SEGMENT: SAN MIGUEL RIVER, SEGMENT 6
HYDROLOGIC UNIT: San Miguel

Description: The San Miguel River flows perennially, with low flows occuring during fall and early winter months, and high flows occuring during spring snowmelt. This reach of the San Miguel River has an upper terminus at its confluence with Atkinson Creek and a lower terminus at its confluence with the Dolores River. The river has carved a narrow, sinuous canyon, deeply incised through sedimentary rock formations.

Lower Terminus – Latitude: 38° 22' 46.60" N; Longitude: 108° 48' 12.89" W
Upper Terminus – Latitude: 38° 23' 6.71" N; Longitude: 108° 45' 28.77" W

River Segment Ownership (in Miles):

BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL LENGTH	% FEDERAL
2.25			0.98	**3.23**	**69.66%**

Land Ownership within One-Half Mile Wide Corridor (in Acres):

BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL ACRES	% FEDERAL
808.7			180.7	**989.4**	**81.7%**

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: **Recreational, Fish, Historic, Vegetation**

1) Recreational - This section of the San Miguel River provides exceptional opportunities for sightseeing and photography along the Unaweep-Tabeguache Byway. The byway is marketed to visitors from within Colorado, as well as out of state and internationally by the Unaweep-Tabeguache Byway Committee and by the Colorado Office of Tourism. This section of the byway focuses on the San Miguel River and associated historic sites and surrounding landscape.

2) Fish - This river segment contains exemplary populations of three BLM and Colorado sensitive warm water fish species: Bluehead sucker *(Catostomus discobolus)*, flannelmouth sucker *(Catostomus latipinnis)*, and roundtail chub *(Gila robusta)*. These populations are regionally significant due to population numbers and the lack of non-native fish within this segment. In addition, this reach was historically occupied by the Colorado pikeminnow *(Ptychocheilus lucius)*, a federally endangered species.

3) Historic - Along the canyon walls of this San Miguel River segment are remnants of the historic Hanging Flume, one of the premier engineering accomplishments of the 19th century in the west. The thirteen-mile flume was built in the late 1800s to supply water to a hydraulic placer gold mining operation on the Dolores River near Roc Creek. The structure was added to the NRHP in 1980, and was listed as one of Colorado's Most Endangered Places in 1999. In addition, the flume is listed on the Colorado State Register of Historic Properties, the World

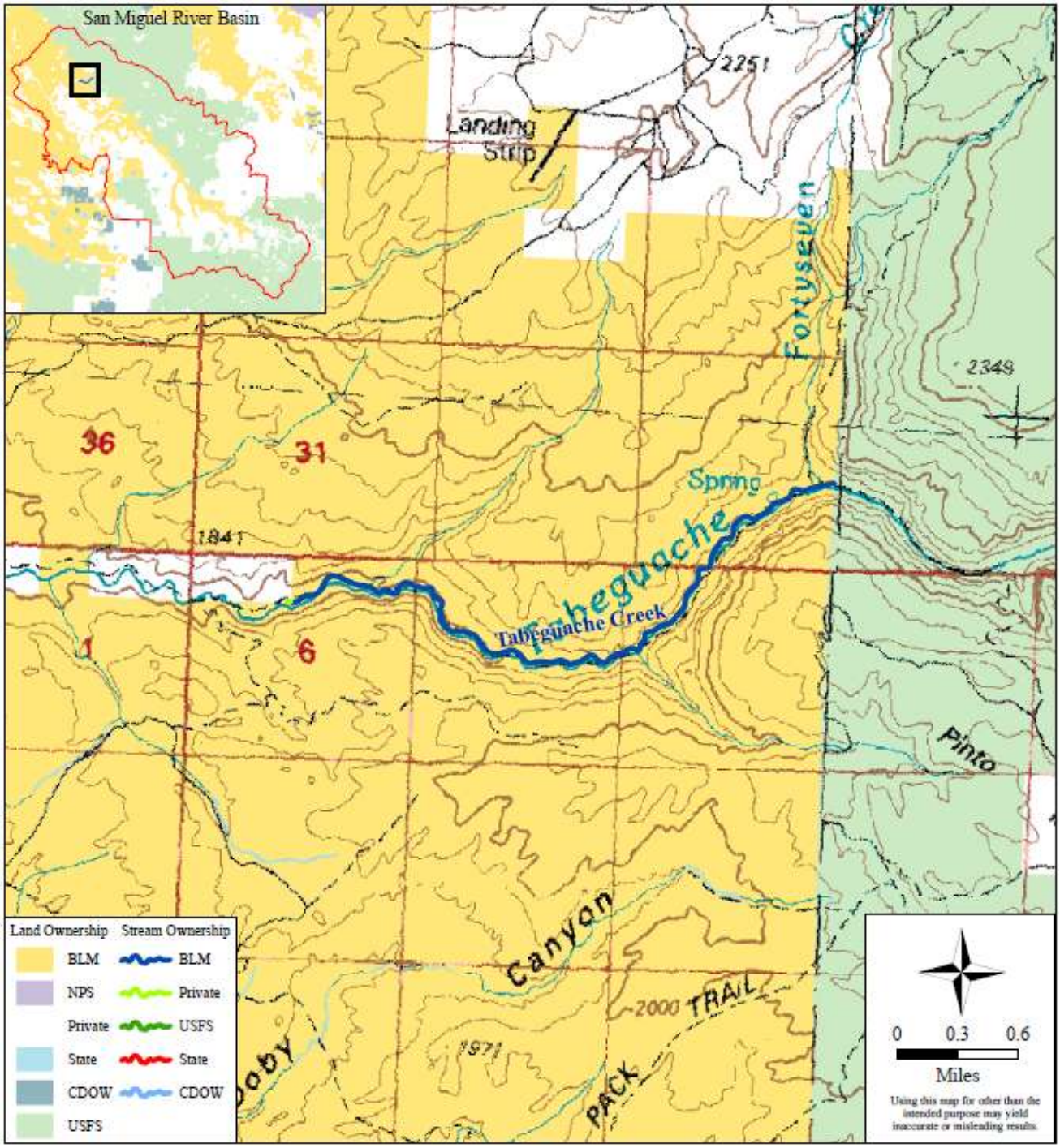
Heritage Fund's list of most endangered places and the 2006 World Monument Fund Watch List of 100 Most Endangered Sites.

Historic uranium mining buildings and shafts can also be found along this stretch, many of which have been evaluated and found to be eligible for nomination to the NRHP under ***Criterion A:*** *Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history*.

4) Vegetation - This riparian zone contains New Mexico privet riparian shrubland *(Forestiera pubescens)*, which is currently ranked as globally imperiled (G2). The reach is included within the Uravan West Potential Conservation Area and is considered by CNHP to have outstanding significance.

Preliminary Classification: **Recreational**

Rationale - This river reach is free of diversions and impoundments, but an improved gravel county road parallels the southern bank of the river for its entire length. The road is primarily located in the riparian zone adjacent to the channel, but does occasionally infringe on the active river channel. An old, unused bridge crosses the San Miguel River just downstream of its confluence with Atkinson Creek. The historically significant Hanging Flume is visible from the river along the north canyon side for much of this reach.



Map 23 - Tabeguache Creek, Segment 1

Total Segment Length: **3.61 miles**

BLM-administered Portion: **3.61 miles**

Hydrologic Unit: **San Miguel**

Preliminary Classification: **Wild**

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: **Vegetation**

23 - RIVER SEGMENT: TABEGUACHE CREEK, SEGMENT 1
HYDROLOGIC UNIT: San Miguel

Description: Tabeguache Creek is a perennially flowing tributary of the lower San Miguel River. High flows on this segment occur from spring snowmelt and runoff generated by summer thunderstorm activity. The upper terminus is the boundary with the Uncompahgre National Forest, while the lower terminus is the west boundary of the Tabeguache Area.

Lower Terminus – Latitude: 38° 21' 34.46" N; Longitude: 108° 33' 58.49" W
Upper Terminus – Latitude: 38° 22' 10.25" N; Longitude: 108° 31' 1.30" W

River Segment Ownership (in Miles):

BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL LENGTH	% FEDERAL
3.61				**3.61**	**100%**

Land Ownership within One-Half Mile Wide Corridor (in Acres):

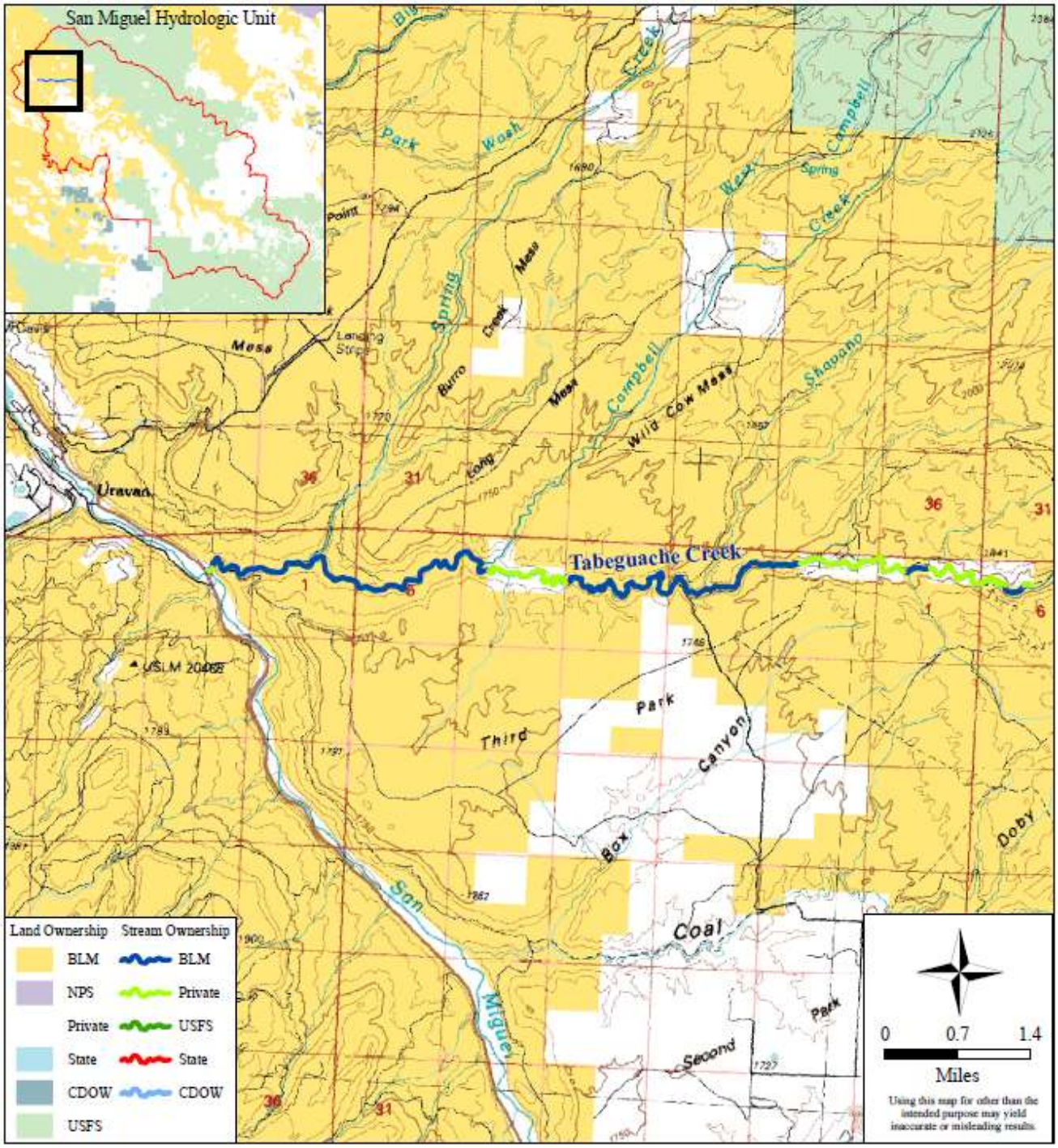
BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL ACRES	% FEDERAL
1,077.0			6.3	**1,083.3**	**99.4%**

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: **Vegetation**

1) Vegetation - This segment contains a superior (A-ranked) occurrence of narrowleaf cottonwood/skunkbush sumac riparian woodland (*Populus angustifolia/Rhus trilobata*), classified as vulnerable globally (G3). There is also a superior (A-ranked) occurrence of common sandbar willow/barren riparian shrubland (*Salix exigua/barren*). The entire segment lies within the CNHP-designated San Miguel River at Tabeguache Creek Potential Conservation Area.

Preliminary Classification: **Wild**

Rationale - A relatively inconspicuous single-track pack trail, overgrown with vegetation, parallels and crosses this river segment, and runs entirely within the confined canyon bottom. An absolute water right for a 1.92-cfs irrigation diversion and ditch known as Skee's Ditch is located on this river segment at Colorado Sixth Principal Meridian, T47N, R15W, Section 5 SW, NW, New Mexico Principal Meridian (NMPM) of the BLM Public Land Survey System. This water right was decreed by the state of Colorado in 1939, but records indicating if and when it was ever constructed are lacking. A field assessment conducted by BLM personnel in May 2009 found no physical sign of a stream diversion or ditch. The shoreline for the entire segment is primitive.



Map 24 - Tabeguache Creek, Segment 2

Total Segment Length: **11.57 miles**

BLM-administered Portion: **7.89 miles**

Hydrologic Unit: **San Miguel**

Preliminary Classification: **Recreational**

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: **Cultural, Vegetation**

24 - RIVER SEGMENT: TABEGUACHE CREEK, SEGMENT 2
HYDROLOGIC UNIT: San Miguel

Description: Tabeguache Creek is a perennially flowing tributary of the lower San Miguel River. High flows on this segment occur during spring snowmelt and from runoff generated by summer thunderstorm activity. The upper terminus is the west boundary of the Tabeguache Area. The lower terminus is the confluence of Tabeguache Creek with the San Miguel River.

Lower Terminus – Latitude: 38° 21' 25.36" N; Longitude: 108° 42' 43.18" W
Upper Terminus – Latitude: 38° 21' 34.46" N; Longitude: 108° 33' 58.49" W

River Segment Ownership (in Miles):

BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL LENGTH	% FEDERAL
7.89			3.68	**11.57**	**68.2%**

Land Ownership within One-Half Mile Wide Corridor (in Acres):

BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL ACRES	% FEDERAL
2,487.3			515.4	**3,002.7**	**82.8%**

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: **Cultural, Vegetation**

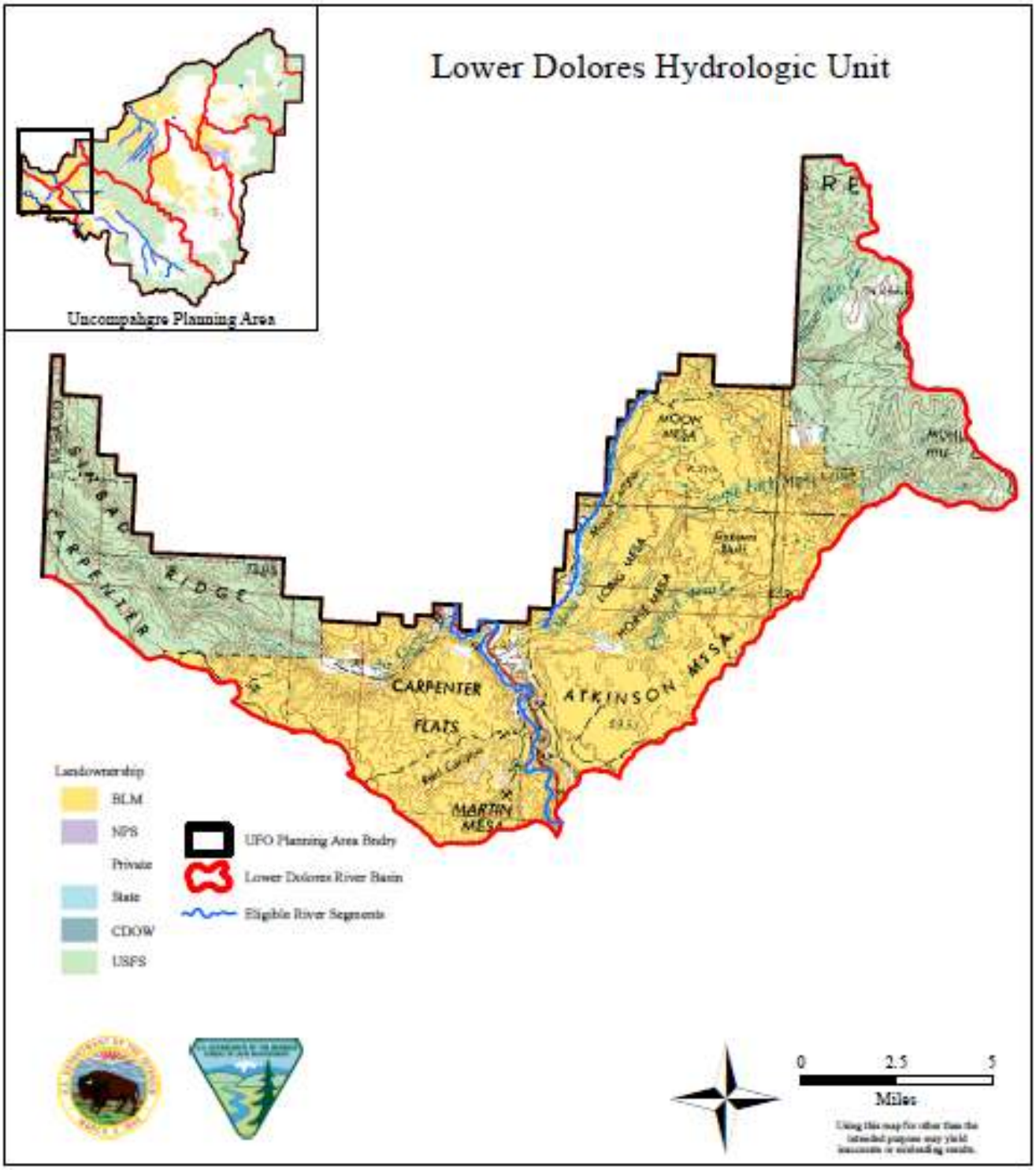
1) Cultural - The prehistoric Tabeguache Cave site was home to Anasazi and possibly Gateway Culture people. The site was excavated in the 1920s, and provides much of the baseline archaeological data used in interpreting Colorado's prehistory. The site is listed on the NRHP and was added to the Colorado Register of Historic Properties in 1996.

   In addition, numerous open occupations, rock art figures and campsites are associated with this segment of Tabeguache Creek, many of which have been evaluated as eligible for nomination to the NRHP under ***Criterion C:*** *Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction*, and ***Criterion D:*** *Yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory*.

2) Vegetation - This segment contains three outstanding plant communities. There is a superior (A-ranked) occurrence of New Mexico privet riparian shrubland *(Forestiera pubescens)*, which is considered to be globally imperiled (G2). There are also superior (A-ranked) occurrences of globally vulnerable (G3) narrowleaf cottonwood/skunkbush riparian woodland *(Populus angustifolia/Rhus trilobata)*, and common coyote willow/bare ground riparian shrubland *(Salix exigua/barren)*. The entire segment lies within the CNHP-designated San Miguel River at Tabeguache Creek Potential Conservation Area.

Preliminary Classification: **Recreational**

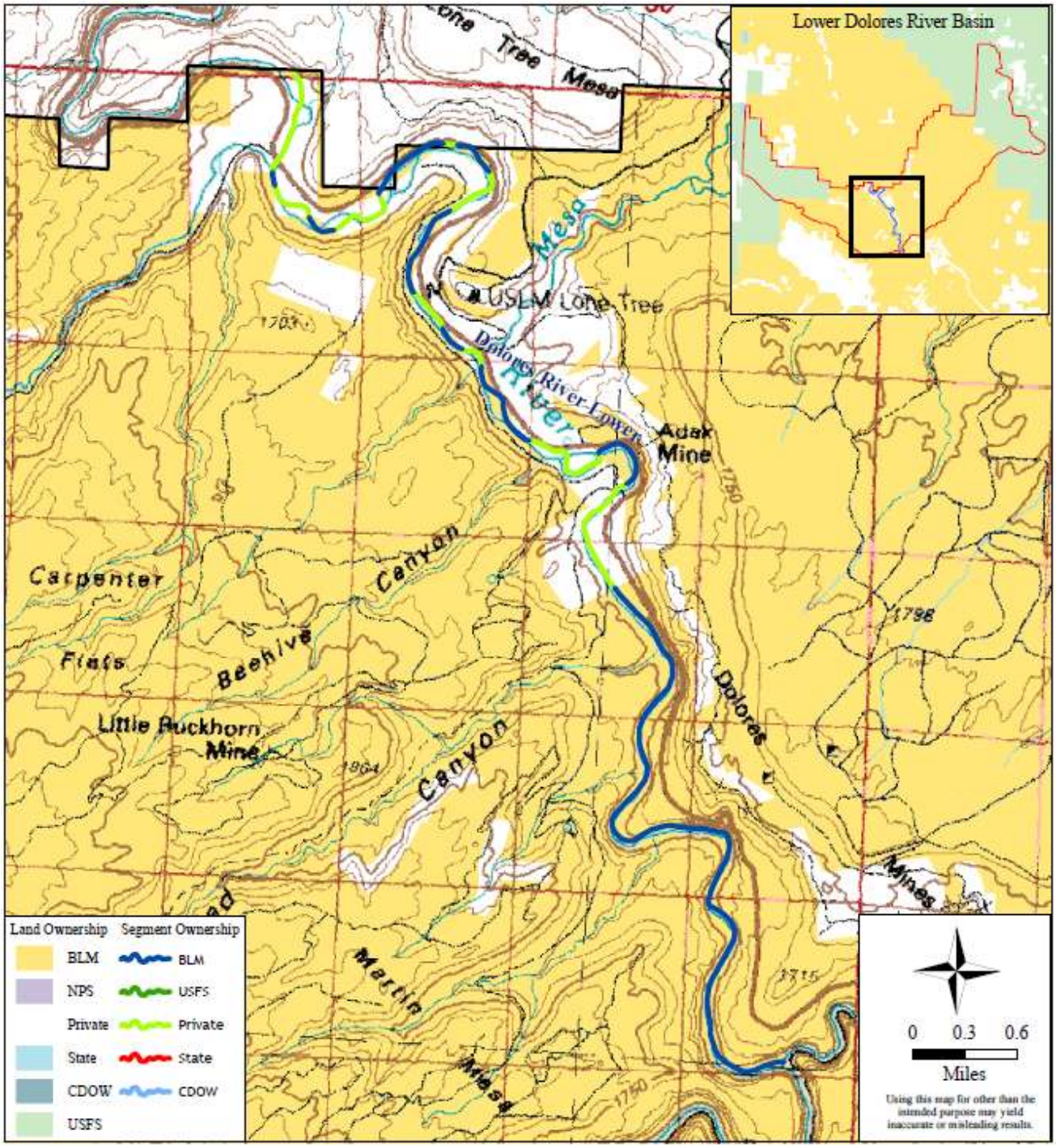
Rationale - Montrose County roads and an unsurfaced road primarily associated with private lands parallel portions of this segment. In addition, there is a county road bridge crossing, as well as water diversions and one small impoundment.



HYDROLOGIC UNIT 4 - LOWER DOLORES

Eligible River Segments: 2

25. Lower Dolores River
26. North Fork Mesa Creek



Map 25 - Lower Dolores River

Total Segment Length: **10.53 miles**

BLM-administered Portion: **6.93 miles**

Hydrologic Unit: **Lower Dolores**

Preliminary Classification: **Scenic**

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: **Scenic, Recreational, Geologic, Fish, Wildlife**

25 - RIVER SEGMENT: LOWER DOLORES RIVER
HYDROLOGIC UNIT: Lower Dolores

Description: This segment of the Dolores River is perennial, with the flow regulated upstream by the McPhee Reservoir. The upper terminus is the confluence of the Dolores River and the San Miguel River. The lower terminus is the boundary of the BLM UFO with the BLM Grand Junction FO. Grand Junction's WSR Eligibility Report identifies the downstream, contiguous segment of the Dolores River as eligible. The river is in a narrow sinuous canyon, deeply incised through sedimentary rock formations for much of this segment.

Lower Terminus – Latitude: 38° 27' 34.84" N; Longitude: 108° 51' 35.14" W
Upper Terminus – Latitude: 38° 22' 46.60" N; Longitude: 108° 48' 12.89" W

River Segment Ownership (in Miles):

BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL LENGTH	% FEDERAL
6.93			3.60	**10.53**	**65.8%**

Land Ownership within One-Half Mile Wide Corridor (in Acres):

BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL ACRES	% FEDERAL
2,197.5			922.7	**3,120.2**	**70.4%**

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: **Scenic, Recreational, Geologic, Fish, Wildlife**

1) Scenic - An interdisciplinary BLM field inventory team evaluated the area and assigned a ***Scenic Quality Classification of A***. The following observations were derived from their field notes: A highly varied landscape marked by prominent cliffs, strong vertical relief and interesting erosional patterns, make the Dolores River a visually remarkable area. Exceptional views of adjacent scenery complete the stunning scene. The colors in the area, consisting of greens, yellows, oranges, tans, reds, browns and grays, are rich and varied. Cultural modifications consist of power lines, a recreation site, and Colorado Highway 141 that do not detract significantly from the scenery. From the mouth of the San Miguel River downstream to the confluence with Red Canyon, the river meanders through a narrow canyon bounded by sheer red rock walls. The scenic value created by the river flowing within the canyon is rare in the region of comparison. The section downstream from the confluence with Red Canyon opens to broken ledges and slopes, and does not merit the same outstandingly remarkable scenic quality.

2) Recreational - This section of the Dolores River provides exceptional opportunities for sightseeing and photography along the Unaweep-Tabeguache Byway. The byway is marketed to visitors from within Colorado, out of state, and internationally by the Unaweep-Tabeguache Byway Committee and by the Colorado Office of Tourism. This section of the byway focuses

on the Dolores River and its associated historic sites and surrounding landscape. The river provides extraordinary opportunities for rafting, kayaking and canoeing in a spectacular redrock canyon. With only a handful of comparable opportunities spread across the entire Colorado Plateau, this is an outstanding section of water.

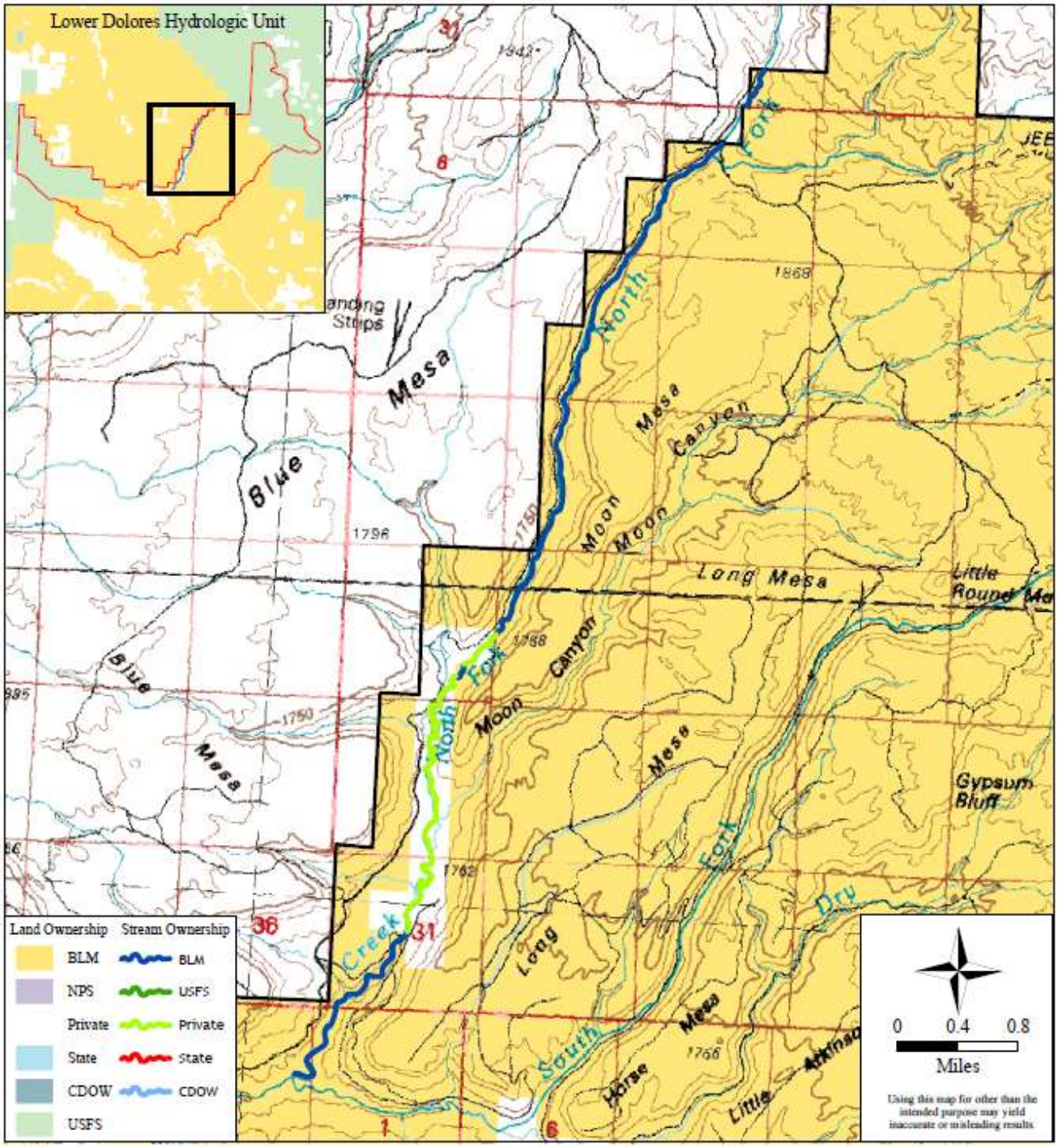
3) Geologic - The Dolores River has a well-defined entrenched meander channel pattern through this area, with exposures of Triassic-age Chinle, Wingate, and Kayenta formations. The river has been superimposed upon the Colorado Plateau geology as the region has undergone uplifting. Initially the river established a meandering pattern and as the area rose, the river cut down in this channel until the pattern became well entrenched. Now the river cannot easily cut across the meander bends to create oxbow lakes, as many unentrenched rivers do. Over time, as the river downcuts, it exposes underlying rock formations, usually in the form of resistant redrock sandstone cliffs. The Chinle, Wingate, and Kayenta formations all exhibit this cliff-forming erosional characteristic.

4) Fish - This segment harbors exemplary populations of three BLM and Colorado sensitive species: flannelmouth suckers *(Catostomus latipinnis)*, bluehead suckers *(Catostomus discobolus)*, and roundtail chubs *(Gila robusta)*. In addition, this segment was historically occupied by Colorado pikeminnow *(Ptychocheilus lucius)*, a federally endangered species.

5) Wildlife - This river segment provides exceptionally high quality habitat for peregrine falcons (Falco peregrinus), and is considered a regionally important area for this rare BLM sensitive species. In 1999, the peregrine was delisted from threatened status under the Endangered Species Act. The BLM monitors the status of peregrine populations to ensure their continued recovery. Peregrine falcons are closely associated with steep-walled canyons and often nest near perennial water sources that support prey populations such as waterfowl, songbirds, and shorebirds. Peregrine pairs were observed along this segment as recently as 2008 and 2009, and breeding/nesting activity has been confirmed along this segment. Several established peregrine territories also occur in the vicinity.

Preliminary Classification: **Scenic**

Rationale - An unsurfaced county road crosses the Dolores River via a bridge, and Colorado State Highway 141 parallels portions of this segment but is primarily located on a bench well above the river. In addition, there are water diversions on this reach of the Dolores. The historic Hanging Flume is visible along portions of this river segment. This river segment is on the Colorado 303(d) list for impaired water quality (Colorado Water Quality Control Commission). The impairment is listed for total recoverable iron, which is suspected of impacting native, warm water fish propagation (Water Body ID COGUUN12). A water quality monitoring plan is being initiated to determine concentration and source of total recoverable iron in the Dolores River, and develop remedial actions if necessary.



Map 26 - North Fork Mesa Creek

Total Segment Length: **8.53 miles**

BLM-administered Portion: **5.81 miles**

Hydrologic Unit: **Lower Dolores**

Preliminary Classification: **Scenic**

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: **Vegetation**

26 - RIVER SEGMENT: NORTH FORK MESA CREEK
HYDROLOGIC UNIT: Lower Dolores

Description: The North Fork of Mesa Creek is a perennial tributary of Mesa Creek. High flows occur during spring snowmelt and from runoff generated by summer thunderstorm activity. The upper terminus is the BLM Grand Junction Field Office boundary. The lower terminus is the confluence of North Fork Mesa Creek with the South Fork Mesa Creek. Grand Junction's WSR Eligibility Report identifies the upstream, contiguous segment of the North Fork of Mesa Creek as eligible. Additionally, nested within this river segment is a 475-yard reach near the upper terminus, which is managed by the Grand Junction Field Office.

Lower Terminus – Latitude: 38° 27' 10.31" N; Longitude: 108° 49' 2.09" W
Upper Terminus – Latitude: 38° 33' 1.27" N; Longitude: 108° 45' 53.41" W

River Segment Ownership (in Miles):

BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL LENGTH	% FEDERAL
5.81			2.72	**8.53**	**68.1%**

Land Ownership within One-Half Mile Wide Corridor (in Acres):

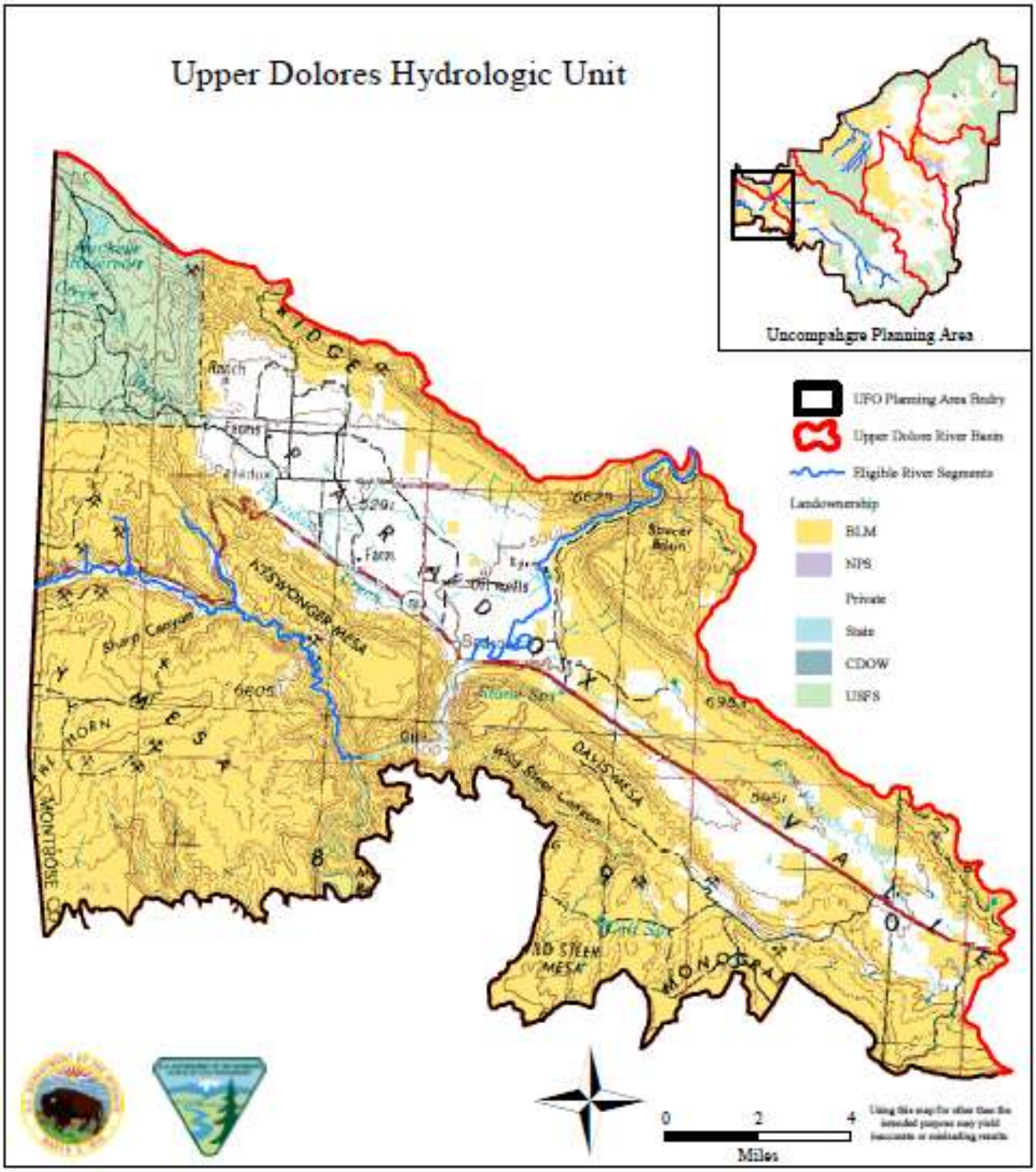
BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL ACRES	% FEDERAL
2,042.4			424.5	**2,466.9**	**82.8%**

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: **Vegetation**

1) Vegetation - This segment contains areas of narrowleaf cottonwood/strapleaf willow/silver buffaloberry riparian woodland (*Populus angustifolia/salix ligulfolia/Shepherdia argentea*), which is classified as critically imperiled globally (G1).

Preliminary Classification: **Scenic**

Rationale - An unsurfaced county road parallels this creek for much of the segment. There are at least two secondary road crossings via unhardened fords. In addition, there are water diversions along this river segment, but no impoundments.

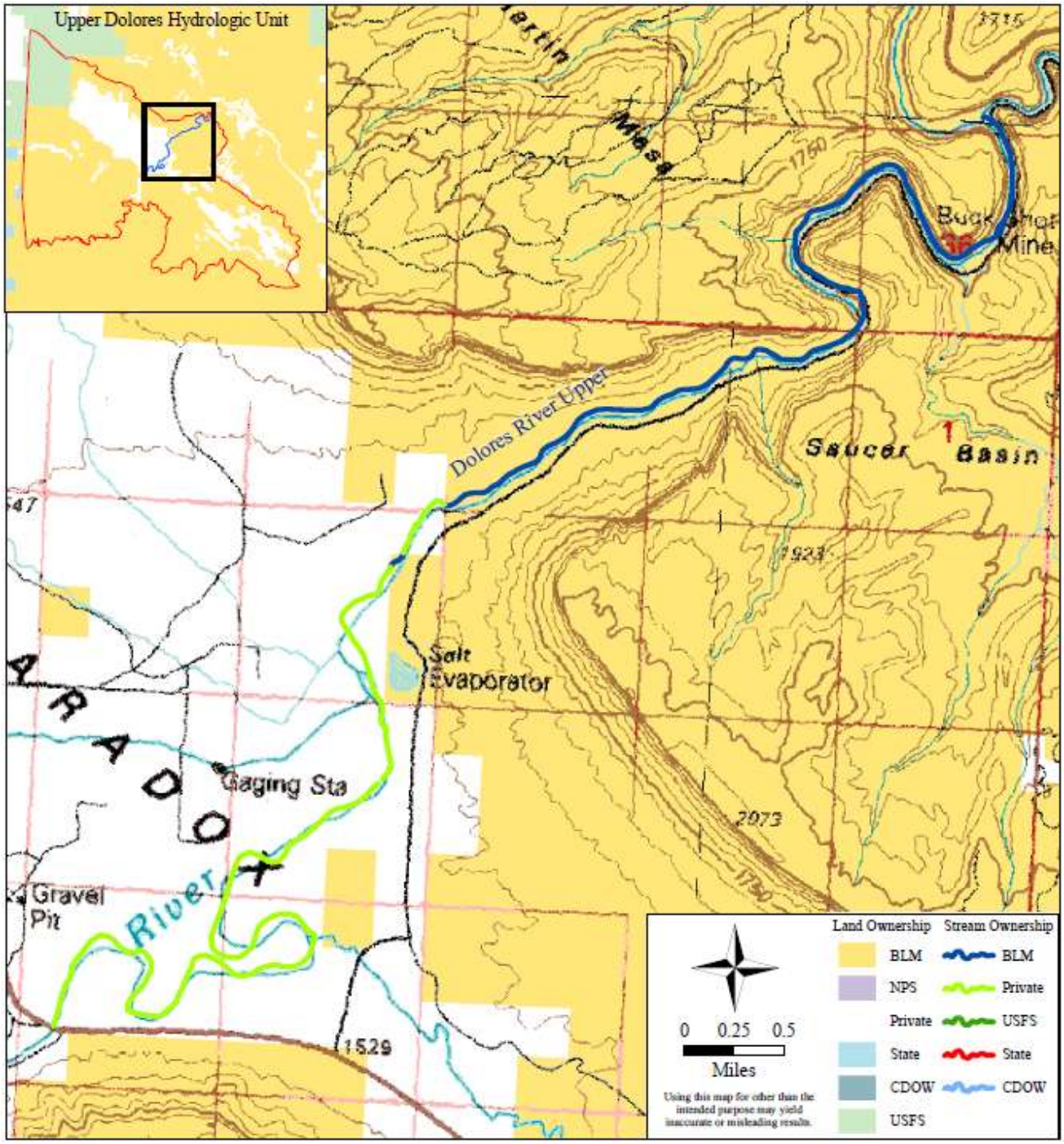


HYDROLOGIC UNIT 5 - UPPER DOLORES

***Eligible River Segments:* 8**

27. Dolores River, Segment 2
28. Ice Lake Creek, Segment 2
29. La Sal Creek, Segment 1
30. La Sal Creek, Segment 2
31. La Sal Creek, Segment 3
32. Lion Creek, Segment 2
33. Spring Creek
*34. Dolores River, Segment 1

* Please refer to the San Juan Public Lands Draft RMP for the Dolores River, Segment 1 eligibility determination



Map 27 - Dolores River, Segment 2

Total Segment Length: **11.50 miles**

BLM-administered Portion: **5.42 miles**

Hydrologic Unit: **Upper Dolores**

Preliminary Classification: **Recreational**

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: **Scenic, Recreational, Geologic, Fish, Wildlife, Vegetation**

*27 - RIVER SEGMENT: DOLORES RIVER, SEGMENT 2
HYDROLOGIC UNIT: Upper Dolores

***The San Juan Public Lands Draft Land Management Plan identifies a contiguous segment of the Dolores River upstream as eligible for WSR status. From Bedrock, Colorado south, the first 11.8 miles of this river segment is within the UFO, and is referred to in this document as *Dolores River, Segment 1*. Segment 1 will be evaluated by the UFO during the suitability phase, but is not addressed in this eligibility report.**

Description: While Segment 2 of the Dolores River is perennial, the McPhee Reservoir regulates flow upstream. The upper terminus of this segment is the Highway 90 bridge crossing at Bedrock in Paradox Valley. The lower terminus is the confluence of the Dolores with the San Miguel River.

Lower Terminus – Latitude: 38° 22' 46.60" N; Longitude: 108° 48' 12.89" W
Upper Terminus – Latitude: 38° 18' 37.30" N; Longitude: 108° 53' 8.76" W

River Segment Ownership (in Miles):

BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL LENGTH	% FEDERAL
5.42			6.08	**11.50**	**47.1%**

Land Ownership within One-Half Mile Wide Corridor (in Acres):

BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL ACRES	% FEDERAL
1,820.7			1,423.8	**3,244.5**	**56.1%**

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: **Scenic, Recreational, Geologic, Fish, Wildlife, Vegetation**

1) Scenic - An interdisciplinary BLM field inventory team evaluated the area and assigned the upper portion of this segment in the Paradox Valley a ***Scenic Quality Classification of B***, making it ineligible for inclusion in the NWSRS. The lower portion of this segment from where the river leaves the Paradox Valley, downstream to the mouth of the San Miguel River was assigned a ***Scenic Quality Classification of A***. The following observations were derived from the team's field notes: A highly varied landscape marked by prominent cliffs, strong vertical relief, and interesting erosional patterns, make the Dolores River a visually remarkable area. Exceptional views of the adjacent scenery complete the stunning scene. The colors in the area are rich and varied, consisting of greens, yellows, oranges, tans, reds, browns, and grays. One of the most dramatic canyons in Western Colorado. Spectacular landforms, color, water, and vegetation combine to create Class A scenic quality. A small, dirt road parallels the river in the lower section, but detracts only minimally from the scenic quality.

2) Recreational - When releases from McPhee Dam allow, the lower five miles of this reach, primarily managed by the BLM, offers rare and outstanding opportunities for rafting, kayaking and canoeing in a deep, meandering redrock canyon. With only a handful of rivers with

similarly attractive characteristics on the entire Colorado Plateau, the Dolores River attracts boaters from across the western United States.

3) Geologic - The Paradox Basin is a northwest, southeast trending geologic structural anticline that has at its core the Pennsylvanian age Paradox Formation, a halitic evaporite. Over time, water has partially dissolved the salt core, causing the axis of the anticline to collapse and creating a valley with walls that dip away in either direction. The Dolores River has carved a channel across and perpendicular to this collapsed valley, forming the geological paradox for which the valley is named.

   After traversing the Paradox Valley and exiting toward the north, the Dolores River follows a well defined and exemplary entrenched meander channel. Initially the slow-moving river established its meandering pattern. As the Colorado Plateau uplifted, the accelerated flow continued to downcut within this same channel until the pattern became entrenched. Now the river cannot easily cut across these meander bends to form oxbow lakes, as many unentrenched rivers do. As the river carves slowly downward through Triassic-age strata of the Chinle Group, Wingate Sandstone, and Kayenta Formation, it exposes resistant red sandstone cliffs.

4) Fish - This river segment supports populations of three BLM and Colorado sensitive species: flannelmouth suckers *(Catostomus latipinnis)*, bluehead suckers *(Catostomus discobolus)*, and roundtail chubs *(Gila robusta)*. In addition, this segment was historically occupied by Colorado pikeminnow *(Ptychocheilus lucius)*, a federally endangered species.

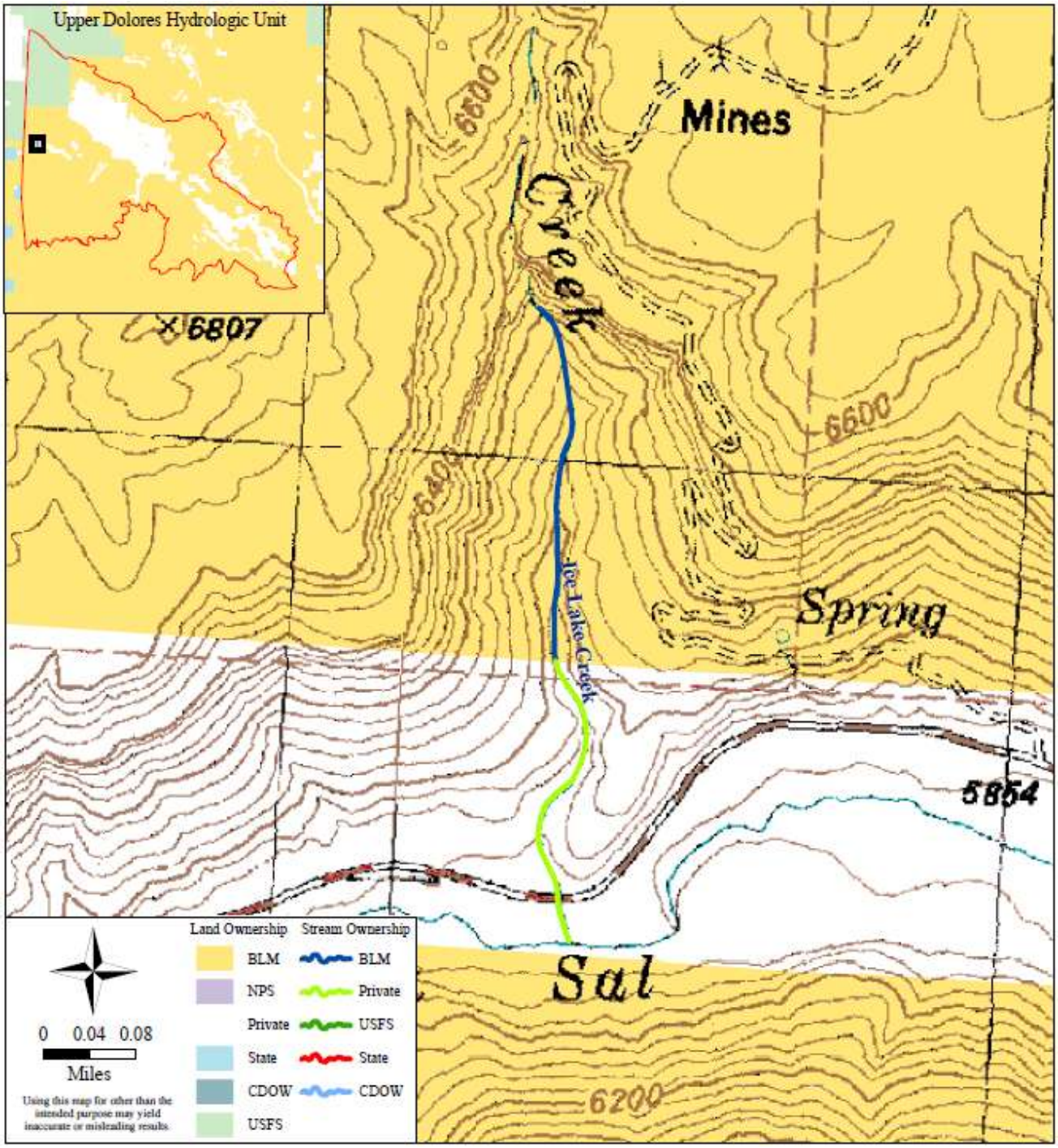
5) Wildlife - This river segment provides exceptionally high quality habitat for peregrine falcons *(Falco peregrinus)*, and is considered a regionally important area for this rare BLM sensitive species. In 1999, the peregrine was delisted from threatened status under the Endangered Species Act. The BLM monitors the status of peregrine populations to ensure their continued recovery. Peregrine falcons are closely associated with steep-walled canyons and often nest near perennial water sources that support prey populations such as waterfowl, songbirds and shorebirds. Peregrine breeding/nesting activity has been confirmed along this segment. Active territories and nests occur within this reach. In addition, the BLM sensitive canyon treefrog *(Hyla arenicolor)* occupies portions of this stretch.

6) Vegetation - This segment contains areas of New Mexico privet riparian shrubland *(Forestieria pubescens)*, which is classified as globally imperiled (G2).

Preliminary Classification: **Recreational**

Rationale - An unsurfaced county road adjacent to the river in the canyon bottom ocassionally encroaches on the riparian zone and river channel. There are several well diversions along this reach, primarily in the section through Paradox Valley. The wells withdraw saline brine water from the river alluvium, which is pumped upstream south of the town of Bedrock and disposed of in a deep injection well. There are remnants of a large retention pond along the west bank of the river associated with past salinity reduction efforts. This river segment is on the

Colorado 303(d) list for impaired water quality (Colorado Water Quality Control Commission) for total recoverable iron, which is suspected of impacting native, warm water fish propagation (Water Body ID COGUUN12). A water quality monitoring plan is being initiated to determine concentration and source of total recoverable iron in the Dolores River, and develop remedial actions if necessary.



Map 28 - Ice Lake Creek Segment 2

Total Segment Length: **0.58 miles**

BLM-administered Portion: **0.31 miles**

Hydrologic Unit: **Upper Dolores**

Preliminary Classification: **Scenic**

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: **Scenic**

28 - RIVER SEGMENT: ICE LAKE CREEK SEGMENT 2
HYDROLOGIC UNIT: Upper Dolores

Description: Ice Lake Creek is a small, spring-fed perennial tributary of La Sal Creek. The upper terminus is the start of the creek's perennial flow, below a knickpoint in the channel. The lower terminus of this river segment is the confluence with La Sal Creek. High flows in this creek are short-lived and flashy, typically resulting from runoff during intense summer thunderstorms. Baseflow occurs yearlong from spring discharge in the channel, approximately three-quarters of a mile upstream from the mouth of the creek.

Lower Terminus – Latitude: 38° 19' 57.43" N; Longitude: 109° 2' 22.14" W
Upper Terminus – Latitude: 38° 20' 25.64" N; Longitude: 109° 2' 25.40" W

River Segment Ownership (in Miles):

BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL LENGTH	% FEDERAL
0.31			0.27	**0.58**	**53.4%**

Land Ownership within One-Half Mile Wide Corridor (in Acres):

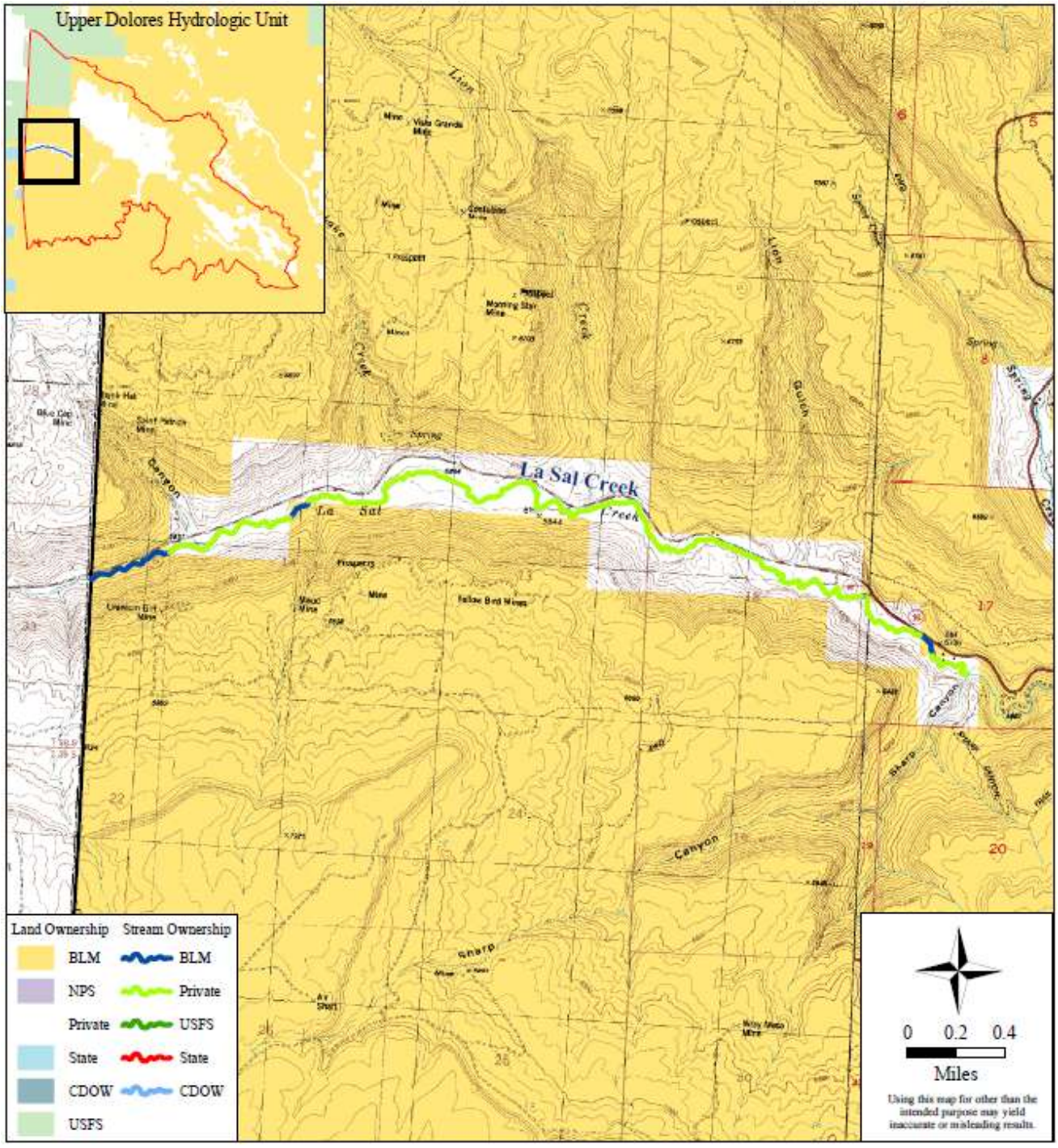
BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL ACRES	% FEDERAL
104.8			75.8	**180.6**	**58%**

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: **Scenic**

1) Scenic - An interdisciplinary BLM field inventory team evaluated the area and assigned a ***Scenic Quality Classification of A***. The following observations were derived from their field notes: A spectacular landscape marked by prominent cliffs, strong vertical relief and interesting erosional features, make Ice Lake Creek a visually remarkable area. Small waterfalls, alcoves, hanging gardens, and pools add to the visual character, and are rare in the region of comparison. The landforms of the adjacent scenery provide rich colors and contrast, completing the stunning scene. The varied colors in the area consist of greens, yellows, oranges, tans, reds, browns, and grays. There is a mining road above the ridgeline on the east side of the creek, but it is not visible from the creek.

Preliminary Classification: **Scenic**

Rationale - There are no roads or other developments along the creek, although several secondary roads exist on the mesas and side slopes above the creek. The shoreline along public lands is essentially primitive. On private land near the lower terminus, there is an irrigated agricultural field with a water diversion. Colorado State Highway 90 crosses this river segment just above the lower terminus. The water quality meets state classifications and designations.



Map 29 - La Sal Creek, Segment 1

Total Segment Length: **4.82 miles**

BLM-administered Portion: **0.62 miles**

Hydrologic Unit: **Upper Dolores**

Preliminary Classification: **Recreational**

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: **Fish, Vegetation**

29 - RIVER SEGMENT: LA SAL CREEK, SEGMENT 1
HYDROLOGIC UNIT: Upper Dolores

Description: La Sal Creek is a perennial stream with headwaters in the La Sal Mountains of eastern Utah. The creek experiences high flows from both spring snowmelt off the La Sal Mountains and runoff generated by summer thunderstorm activity. The upper terminus for this river segment is the Utah-Colorado state line. The lower terminus is the confluence of La Sal Creek with Sharp Canyon.

Lower Terminus – Latitude: 38° 19' 26.09" N; Longitude: 108° 59' 34.40" W
Upper Terminus – Latitude: 38° 19' 38.29" N; Longitude: 109° 3' 36.09" W

River Segment Ownership (in Miles):

BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL LENGTH	% FEDERAL
0.62			4.20	**4.82**	**12.9%**

Land Ownership within One-Half Mile Wide Corridor (in Acres):

BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL ACRES	% FEDERAL
718.1			630.8	**1,348.9**	**53%**

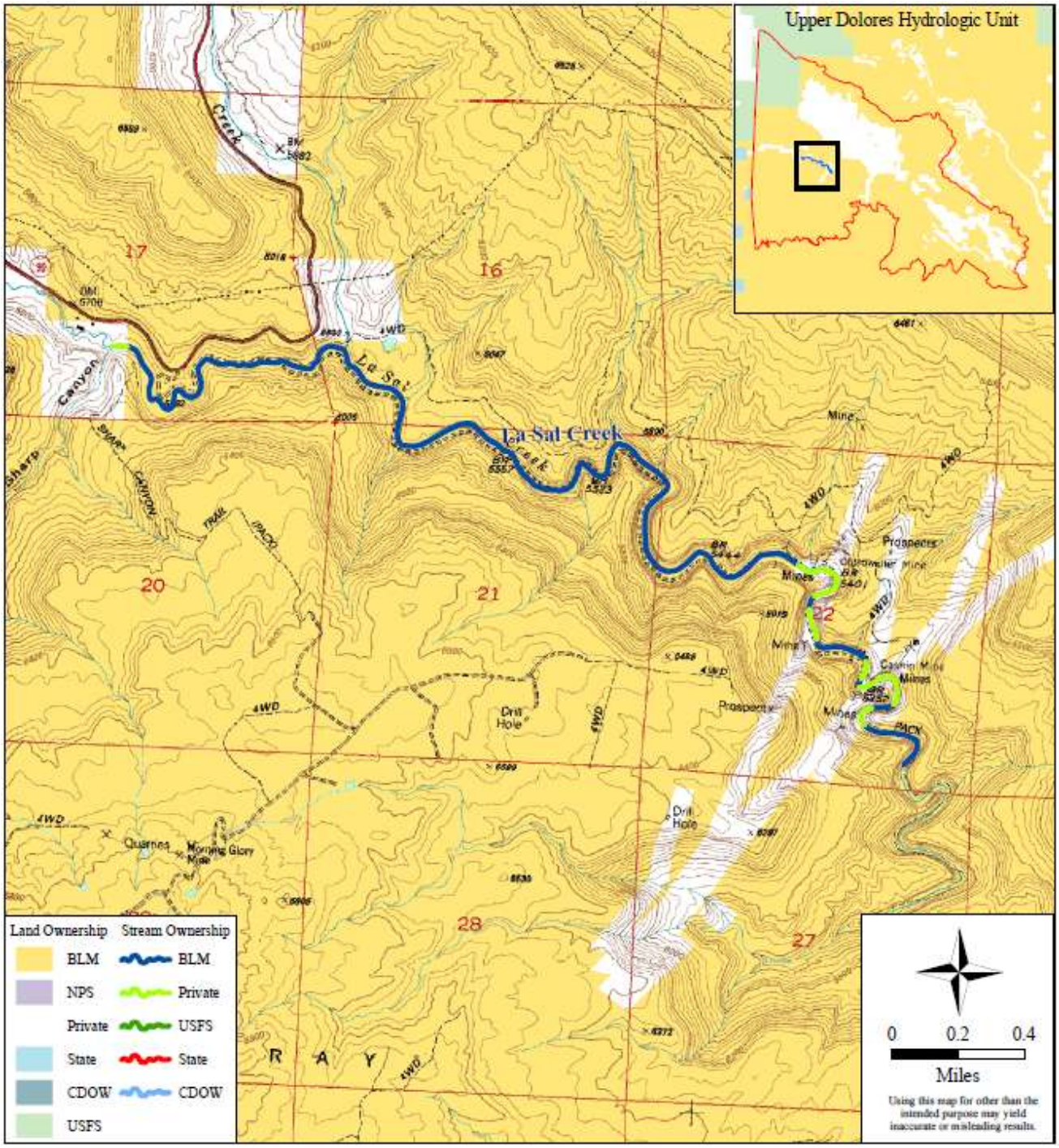
Outstandingly Remarkable Values: **Fish, Vegetation**

1) Fish - This segment harbors exemplary populations of three BLM and Colorado sensitive species, flannelmouth suckers *(Catostomus latipinnis)*, bluehead suckers *(Catostomus discobolus)*, and roundtail chubs *(Gila robusta)*, and the segment is one of only a very few spawning tributaries for these three species in the Dolores River Basin. In addition, the upper portion of this river segment is managed as a wild trout fishery.

2) Vegetation - This segment contains an occurrence of boxelder-river birch riparian woodland *(Acer negundo-Betula occidentalis)*, which is currently ranked as globally imperiled (G2).

Preliminary Classification: Recreational

Rationale - La Sal Creek is paralleled by Colorado State Highway 90 throughout this segment. There are several water diversions, primarily constructed to irrigate the agricultural lands common along this river segment.



Map 30 - La Sal Creek, Segment 2

Total Segment Length: **4.52 miles**

BLM-administered Portion: **3.82 miles**

Hydrologic Unit: **Upper Dolores**

Preliminary Classification: **Scenic**

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: **Fish, Vegetation**

30 - RIVER SEGMENT: LA SAL CREEK, SEGMENT 2
HYDROLOGIC UNIT: Upper Dolores

Description: La Sal Creek is a perennial stream that drains from the La Sal Mountains in eastern Utah. High flows occur during spring snowmelt and from runoff generated by summer thunderstorms. The upper terminus of this segment is the confluence of La Sal Creek with Sharp Canyon. The lower terminus is at the boundary of the Dolores River Canyon Wilderness Study Area.

Lower Terminus – Latitude: 38° 18' 25.77" N; Longitude: 108° 56' 52.93" W
Upper Terminus – Latitude: 38° 19' 26.09" N; Longitude: 108° 59' 34.40" W

River Segment Ownership (in Miles):

BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL LENGTH	% FEDERAL
3.82			0.70	**4.52**	**84.5%**

Land Ownership within One-Half Mile Wide Corridor (in Acres):

BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL ACRES	% FEDERAL
1,032.9			138.8	**1,171.7**	**88.2%**

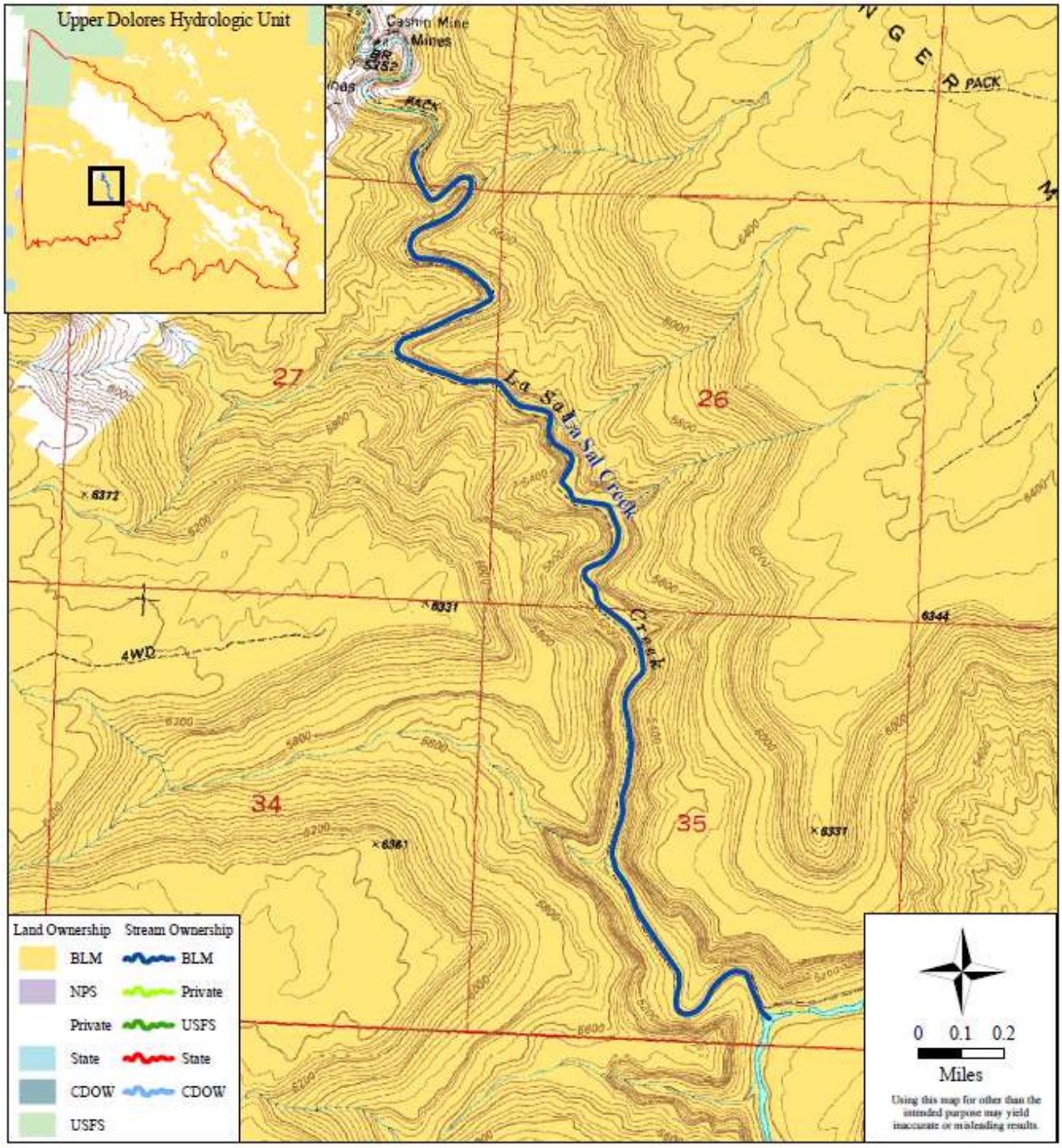
Outstandingly Remarkable Values: **Fish, Vegetation**

1) Fish - This segment harbors exemplary populations of three BLM and Colorado sensitive species: flannelmouth suckers *(Catostomus latipinnis)*, bluehead suckers *(Catostomus discobolus)*, and roundtail chubs *(Gila robusta)*. This is one of a very few spawning tributaries for these species within the Dolores River Basin. The segment is largely intact, with native fish predominant over introduced species, and includes populations of native speckled dace *(Rhinichthys osculus)* and mottled sculpin *(Cottus bairdii)*.

2) Vegetation - The entire length of this segment supports boxelder/river birch riparian woodland *(Acer negundo/Betula occidentalis)*, which is currently ranked as globally imperiled (G2). The segment is included within the CNHP-designated La Sal Creek Potential Conservation Area.

Preliminary Classification: **Scenic**

Rationale - An unsurfaced county road runs adjacent to La Sal Creek for most of this segment. There are no water diversions or impoundments along this stretch.



Map 31 - La Sal Creek, Segment 3

Total Segment Length: **3.37 miles**

BLM-administered Portion: **3.37 miles**

Hydrologic Unit: **Upper Dolores**

Preliminary Classification: **Wild**

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: **Scenic, Recreational, Fish, Cultural, Vegetation**

31 - RIVER SEGMENT: LA SAL CREEK, SEGMENT 3
HYDROLOGIC UNIT: Upper Dolores

Description: La Sal Creek is a perennial stream with headwaters in the La Sal Mountains of eastern Utah. The creek experiences high flows from both spring snowmelt off the La Sal Mountains and runoff generated by summer thunderstorm activity. The upper terminus for this river segment is the Dolores River Canyon WSA boundary. The lower terminus is the confluence of La Sal Creek with the Dolores River.

Lower Terminus – Latitude: 38° 16' 42.03" N; Longitude: 108° 55' 52.62" W
Upper Terminus – Latitude: 38° 18' 25.77" N; Longitude: 108° 56' 52.93" W

River Segment Ownership (in Miles):

BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL LENGTH	% FEDERAL
3.37				**3.37**	**100%**

Land Ownership within One-Half Mile Wide Corridor (in Acres):

BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL ACRES	% FEDERAL
907.7			7.9	**915.6**	**99.1%**

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: **Scenic, Recreational, Fish, Cultural, Vegetation**

1) Scenic - An interdisciplinary BLM field inventory team evaluated the area and assigned a ***Scenic Quality Classification of A***. The following observations were derived from their field notes: Massive rock outcrops and prominent cliffs are the stunning qualities of the La Sal Creek area. The creek flows constant and swift. The rocks and box elder-river birch vegetation create an area of strong contrasts in color and relief consisting of greens, reds, yellows, oranges, grays, and browns. This area is visually exceptional and was determined to be rare within the region.

2) Recreational - This narrow, deeply incised and tightly meandering canyon provides superior opportunities for hiking, wildlife observation, nature study and photography in a high quality, primitive, densely vegetated riparian setting. BLM specialists have observed abundant signs of game species and large predators. The upper end of the segment can be reached by rough four-wheel drive road, while the lower end is accessible by boaters hiking up from the Dolores River.

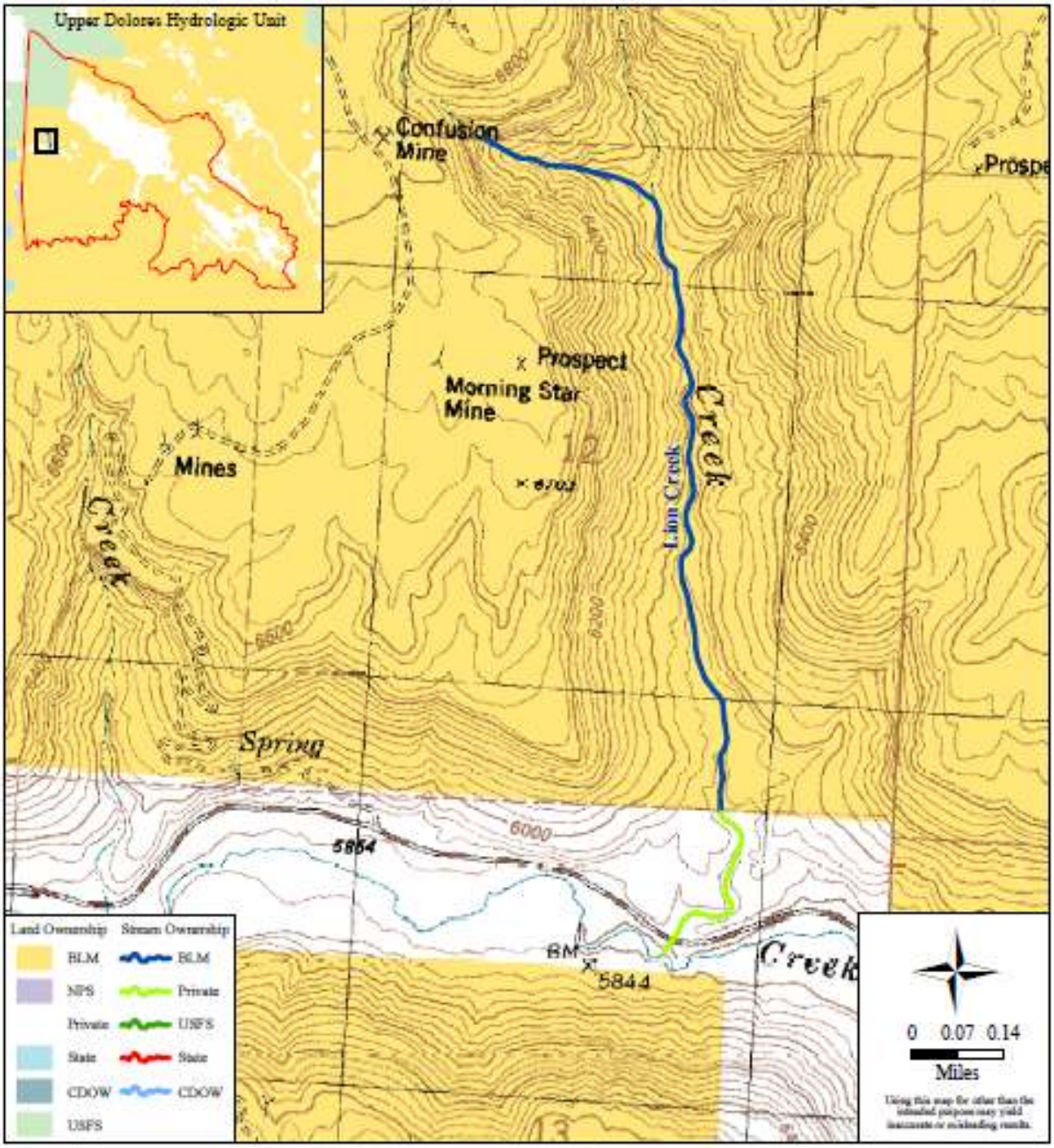
3) Fish - This segment harbors exemplary populations of three BLM and Colorado sensitive species: flannelmouth suckers *(Catostomus latipinnis)*, bluehead suckers *(Catostomus discobolus)*, and roundtail chubs *(Gila robusta)*. The segment is one of only a very few spawning tributaries for these three species in the Dolores River Basin. In addition, this river segment supports two other native fishes: speckled dace *(Rhinichthys osculus)* and mottled sculpin *(Cottus bairdii)*.

4) Cultural - Several large and important petroglyph panels are found at the junction of LaSal Creek and the Dolores River. These panels represent cultural expressions ranging from Archaic hunting motifs dating to as early as 4,000 years ago to late period Anasazi figures from around AD 1000. These petroglyph panels have been recorded and evaluated as being eligible for nomination to the NRHP under ***Criterion C****: Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction*, and ***Criterion D****: Yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory*.

5) Vegetation - This segment contains boxelder/river birch riparian woodland *(Acer negundo/Betula occidentalis)* along its entire length, which is currently ranked as globally imperiled (G2). The segment is included within the CNHP-designated La Sal Creek Potential Conservation Area.

Preliminary Classification: **Wild**

Rationale - The entire river segment is within the Dolores River Canyon WSA. There is a hiking trail along the creek. Except for several locations where the trail crosses the creek, the shoreline is essentially primitive. There are no water diversions or impoundments within this river reach. The water quality meets state classifications and designations.



Map 32 - Lion Creek Segment 2

Total Segment Length: **1.57 miles**

BLM-administered Portion: **1.26 miles**

Hydrologic Unit: **Upper Dolores**

Preliminary Classification: **Scenic**

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: **Vegetation**

32 - RIVER SEGMENT: LION CREEK SEGMENT 2
HYDROLOGIC UNIT: Upper Dolores

Description: Lion Creek is a small, spring-fed tributary of La Sal Creek. The upper terminus is located at the base of a large knickpoint in the channel, above which the stream is mostly ephemeral. The lower terminus of this segment is the confluence with La Sal Creek. High flows in this creek are short-lived and flashy, typically resulting from runoff during intense summer thunderstorms. Baseflow occurs from spring discharge in the channel, approximately 1.5 miles upstream from the mouth of the creek.

Lower Terminus – Latitude: 38° 19' 57.59" N; Longitude: 109° 1' 26.41" W
Upper Terminus – Latitude: 38° 21' 1.31" N; Longitude: 109° 1' 48.01" W

River Segment Ownership (in Miles):

BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL LENGTH	% FEDERAL
1.26			0.31	**1.57**	**80.3%**

Land Ownership within One-Half Mile Wide Corridor (in Acres):

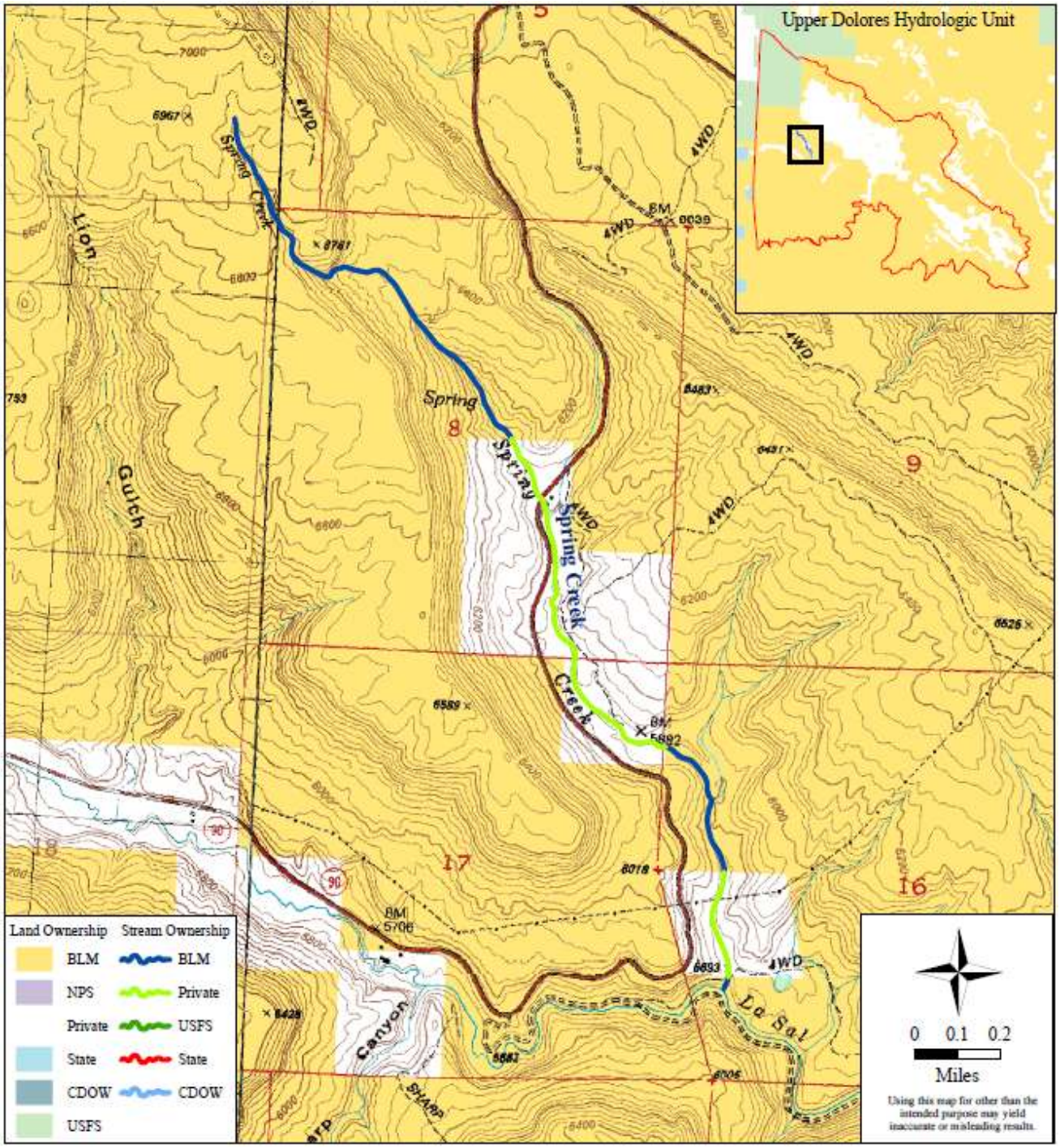
BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL ACRES	% FEDERAL
401.5			84.7	**486.2**	**82.6%**

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: **Vegetation**

1) Vegetation - This segment contains areas of boxelder/river birch riparian woodland *(Acer negundo/Betula occidentalis)*, which is currently ranked as globally imperiled (G2).

Preliminary Classification: **Scenic**

Rationale - Colorado State Highway 90 crosses Lion Creek near its confluence with La Sal Creek. Except for the highway crossing, the shoreline is largely primitive. There are water diversions on private land near the confluence with La Sal Creek. The water quality meets state classifications and designations.



Map 33 - Spring Creek

Total Segment Length: **2.65 miles**

BLM-administered Portion: **1.49 miles**

Hydrologic Unit: **Upper Dolores**

Preliminary Classification: **Recreational**

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: **Vegetation**

33 - RIVER SEGMENT: SPRING CREEK
HYDROLOGICAL UNIT: Upper Dolores

Description: Spring Creek is a small perennial, spring-fed tributary of La Sal Creek. The upper terminus this river segment is the creek's headwaters, while the lower terminus is the confluence with La Sal Creek. High flows in this creek are short-lived and flashy, typically resulting from runoff during intense summer thunderstorms. Baseflow occurs yearlong, resulting from spring discharge in the headwaters.

Lower Terminus – Latitude: 38° 19' 27.03" N; Longitude: 108° 58' 48.09" W
Upper Terminus – Latitude: 38° 21' 10.67" N; Longitude: 109° 0' 9.84" W

River Segment Ownership (in Miles):

BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL LENGTH	% FEDERAL
1.49			1.16	**2.65**	**56.2%**

Land Ownership within One-Half Mile Wide Corridor (in Acres):

BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL ACRES	% FEDERAL
633.0			201.4	**834.4**	**75.9%**

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: **Vegetation**

1) Vegetation - This segment contains areas of box elder/river birch riparian woodland *(Acer negundo/Betula occidentalis)*, which is currently ranked as globally imperiled (G2).The segment is located within the CNHP-designated La Sal Creek Potential Conservation Area.

Preliminary Classification: **Recreational**

Rationale - A Colorado state highway crosses Spring Creek via a bridge and parallels portions of this river segment. Two power lines are visible from the bench above the creek. There are water diversions for irrigation of agricultural lands within this river segment.

CHAPTER 6
Suitability Analysis

Eligible river segments (described in Chapter 5 of this report) will undergo a suitability evaluation during the development of the Draft RMP/Draft EIS and Proposed RMP/Final EIS. The final decision on the suitability of a given river segment will be made in the Record of Decision for the Approved Uncompaghre RMP.

This determination does not designate a river as part of the NWSRS. Only congressional action (or the Secretary of the Interior in some cases) may designate a river. If a river is found to be unsuitable, it will be removed from further WSR consideration and will be subject to the management objectives in the prevailing RMP. According to the Interagency WSR Coordinating Council (1999), suitability evaluations should answer three questions:

1) Should the river's free-flowing character, water quality, and ORVs be protected, or are one or more other uses important enough to warrant doing otherwise?
2) Will the river's free-flowing character, water quality, and ORVs be protected through designation? Is it the best method for protecting the river corridor? In answering these questions, the benefits and impacts of WSR designation must be evaluated, and alternative protection methods considered.
3) Is there a demonstrated commitment to protect the river by any nonfederal entities that may be partially responsible for implementing protective management?

Input from designated stakeholder groups during the scoping process, as well as comments regarding the Draft RMP and Draft EIS, will be incorporated into the suitability determination.

6.1 CRITERIA USED IN SUITABILITY EVALUATION

BLM Manual 8351 identifies factors to be considered when examining jurisdictional and management constraints and answering the questions presented above during the suitability process:

- Characteristics which do or do not make the area a worthy addition to the NWSRS
- Status of land ownership, surface and subsurface minerals, area use, including the amount of private land involved and associated or incompatible uses. Jurisdictional consideration (including administrative role and/or presence) must be taken into account to the extent that management would be affected
- Reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and related waters which would be enhanced, foreclosed or curtailed if the area were included in the NWSRS, and the values which could be foreclosed or diminished if the area is not protected as part of the NWSRS

- Federal, public, state, tribal, local, or other interests in designation or non-designation of the river
- Where appropriate, estimated costs associated with acquiring lands or interests in lands, and administering the area if it were to be added to the NWSRS
- Ability of the agency to manage and/or protect the river area or segment as a WSR, or other mechanisms (existing and potential) to protect identified values other than WSR designation
- Historical or existing rights which could be adversely affected.

The ***Wild and Scenic River Study Process*** (1999) developed by the Interagency Wild and Scenic Rivers Coordinating Council provides additional factors that may be important to examine in considering the suitability of a given segment, including:

- An evaluation of the adequacy of local zoning and other land use controls in protecting the river's ORVs by preventing incompatible development. This evaluation may result in a formal finding that the local zoning fulfills Section 6(c) requirements, which in turn preempts the federal government's ability to acquire land through eminent domain if the river is designated.
- The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the ORVs on nonfederal lands. This factor requires an evaluation of the river protection mechanisms available through the authority of state and local governments. Such mechanisms may include, for example, statewide programs related to population growth management, vegetation management, water quantity or quality, or protection of river-related values such as open space and historic areas.
- Support or opposition to designation. Assessment of this factor will define the political context. The interest in designation or non-designation by federal agencies; state, local and tribal governments; and national and local publics should be considered, as well as the state's political delegation.
- The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives. Designation may help or impede the "goals" of other tribal, federal, state or local agencies. For example, designation of a river may contribute to state or regional protection objectives for fish and wildlife resources. Similarly, adding a river which includes a limited recreation activity or setting to the National System may help meet statewide recreation goals. Designation might, however, limit irrigation and/or flood control measures in a manner inconsistent with regional socioeconomic goals.
- The contribution to river system or basin integrity. This factor reflects the benefits of a "systems" approach, such as expanding the designated portion of a river in the National System or developing a legislative proposal for an entire river system (headwaters to mouth) or watershed. Numerous benefits are likely to result from managing an entire river

or watershed, including the ability to design a holistic protection strategy in partnership with other agencies and the public.

- The potential for water resources development. The intent of the Act is to preserve selected rivers from the harmful effects of water resources projects. Designation will limit development of water resources projects as diverse as irrigation and flood control measures, hydropower facilities, dredging, diversion and channelization.

6.2 TIMING AND PROCESS OF THE SUITABILITY PHASE

River and stream segments identified as eligible in this report will be evaluated for WSR suitability during the development of management alternatives for the Draft RMP, scheduled to take place in 2010. This evaluation will be a collaborative effort between the BLM UFO and other federal and non-federal stakeholders. In addition to two required alternatives: (1) finding all eligible segments suitable, and (2) finding no eligible segments suitable, the BLM and stakeholders will coordinate to develop alternatives considering designation of a portion of eligible segments as suitable, and will examine different potential levels of classification for each segment.

Coordination is particularly important during this phase to determine the appropriateness of designating a river based on other uses, whether a river can be protected through designation, and the level of commitment to protect a river by any non-federal entities who would be involved in protective management. Other options may be developed during this phase that would have the greatest potential for successfully maintaining the character and values of eligible river segments.

I choose to listen to the river for a while,

thinking river thoughts,

before joining the night and the stars.

~ Edward Abbey ~

CHAPTER 7
Appendices

APPENDIX A - REPORT PREPARERS

APPENDIX B - REFERENCES

APPENDIX C - UNCOMPAHGRE WSR EVALUATION AREA RIVERS INVENTORY

APPENDIX D - SCOPING COMMENTS

APPENDIX E - DRAFT ELIGIBILITY REPORT PRESS RELEASE

APPENDIX A - REPORT PREPARERS

NAME	DISCIPLINE	RESPONSIBILITY
BLM Colorado State Office—		
Roy Smith	Water Rights Specialist	Water Rights
BLM Glenwood Springs Field Office—		
Tom Fresques	West Slope Fisheries Biologist	Fish ORVs
BLM Uncompahgre Field Office—		
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Dennis Murphy	Hydrologist	Report Lead/Rivers Field Inventory
John Arkins	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Scenic ORVs/Rivers Field Inventory
Amanda Clements	Ecologist	Vegetation ORVs/Rivers Field Inventory
Robert Ernst	Geologist	Geologic ORVs
Jim Ferguson	Wildlife Biologist	Rivers Field Inventory
Edd Franz	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Recreational & Scenic ORVs
Glade Hadden	Archaeologist	Cultural & Historic ORVs
Julie Jackson	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Scenic ORVs/Rivers Field Inventory
Dave Kauffman	Associate Field Manager	Rivers Field Inventory
Kurt Kubik	Range Conservationist	Rivers Field Inventory
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Charles Sharp	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife ORVs
Barbara Sharrow	Field Manager	Report Review/Rivers Field Inventory
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Melissa Siders	Biology Staff Supervisor	Rivers Field Inventory
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Dean Stindt	Range Conservationist	Rivers Field Inventory
Karen Tucker	Gunnison Gorge NCA Manager	Rivers Field Inventory

APPENDIX B - REFERENCES

Bureau of Land Management

1982 *Archaeological Resources of Southwestern Colorado: Uncompahgre and Gunnison Resource Areas, San Miguel Resource Area*. Colorado State Office. Denver, Colorado.

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APPENDIX C - UNCOMPAHGRE RIVER INVENTORY

Table 7-1 River Segments in the WSR Evaluation Area Reviewed for Eligibility

Yellow shading indicates that a segment has been determined eligible.
Blue shading indicates that the segment has been evaluated for eligibility in an Eligibility Report prepared by the BLM Dolores Field Office.
Tan shading indicates that an eligible segment will be evaluated for suitability during development of the Dominguez-Escalante RMP.
[1]X indicates that a value has been determined to meet ORV criteria.
[2]W indicates a tentative classification of wild, S indicates a tentative classification of scenic, and R indicates a tentative classification of recreational.

SEGMENT NAME	SEGMENT LOCATION	TOTAL SEGMENT LENGTH (IN MILES)	SEGMENT LENGTH ON BLM LANDS (IN MILES)	FREE-FLOWING DETERMINATION (Y OR N)	OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES[1]								CLASSIFICATION[2]
					Scenic	*Recreational*	*Geologic*	*Fish*	*Wildlife*	*Cultural*	*Historic*	*Vegetation*	
HYDROLOGIC UNIT: UPPER GUNNISON													
Coal Creek	Headwaters in T47N R7W Sec 34 NMPM to Cimarron River	3.74	0.89	Y									
Doug Creek	Gunnison NF boundary to Muddy Creek	6.69	0.30	Y									
High Park Creek	Uncompahgre NF boundary to Coal Creek	1.84	0.96	Y									
Iron Creek	Gould Reservoir to Crawford Reservoir	5.08	0.30	Y									

SEGMENT NAME	SEGMENT LOCATION	TOTAL SEGMENT LENGTH (IN MILES)	SEGMENT LENGTH ON BLM LANDS (IN MILES)	FREE-FLOWING DETERMINATION (Y OR N)	OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES[1]								CLASSIFICATION[2]
					Scenic	*Recreational*	*Geologic*	*Fish*	*Wildlife*	*Cultural*	*Historic*	*Vegetation*	
Muddy Creek	Headwaters to Crawford Reservoir	8.49	0.03	Y									
Muddy Creek	Crawford Reservoir to Smith Fork	0.89	0.83	Y									
Smith Fork	Gunnison NF boundary to GGNCA boundary	15.35	0.12	Y									
Squaw Creek	Upstream UFO boundary in T48N/R7W/Sec 1 NMPM to Cimarron River	1.48	1.28	Y									
HYDROLOGIC UNIT: LOWER GUNNISON													
Alkali Creek	Grand Mesa NF boundary to confluence with Gunnison River	10.11	7.22	Y									
Beebe Creek	Grand Mesa NF boundary to Oak Creek	6.32	2.57	Y									
Branch Creek	Uncompahgre NF boundary to North Fork Escalante Creek	1.96	1.27	N									
Camp Creek	Grand Mesa NF boundary to Dirty George Creek	4.53	0.73	Y									

SEGMENT NAME	SEGMENT LOCATION	TOTAL SEGMENT LENGTH (IN MILES)	SEGMENT LENGTH ON BLM LANDS (IN MILES)	FREE-FLOWING DETERMINATION (Y OR N)	OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES[1]								CLASSIFICATION[2]
					Scenic	*Recreational*	*Geologic*	*Fish*	*Wildlife*	*Cultural*	*Historic*	*Vegetation*	
Cottonwood Creek	Uncompahgre NF boundary to downstream UFO boundary in T51N/ R12W/Sec 14 NMPM	18.27	18.27	Y								X	S
Criswell Creek	Uncompahgre NF boundary to Roubideau Creek	5.12	5.12	Y									
Currant Creek	Grand Mesa NF boundary to downstream UFO boundary at Antelope Hill	11.83	1.65	Y									
Dirty George Creek	Grand Mesa NF boundary to Tongue Creek	7.68	1.44	N									
Doughspoon Creek	East and West Forks of Doughspoon Creek to Tongue Creek	7.00	3.30	Y									
Dry Fork Escalante Creek Segment 1	Uncompahgre NF boundary to Tatum Draw	10.86	10.86	Y									
Dry Fork Escalante Creek Segment 2	Tatum Draw to mouth	2.89	2.43	Y								X	R
East Fork Doughspoon Creek	Grand Mesa NF boundary to Doughspoon Creek	1.76	1.18	N									

SEGMENT NAME	SEGMENT LOCATION	TOTAL SEGMENT LENGTH (IN MILES)	SEGMENT LENGTH ON BLM LANDS (IN MILES)	FREE-FLOWING DETERMINATION (Y OR N)	OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES[1]								CLASSIFICATION[2]
					Scenic	*Recreational*	*Geologic*	*Fish*	*Wildlife*	*Cultural*	*Historic*	*Vegetation*	
Escalante Creek Segment 1	Uncompahgre NF boundary to upstream Colorado State land boundary in T51N/R13W/ Sec 15 NMPM	8.45	5.75	Y	X	X	X		X			X	S
Escalante Creek Segment 2	Upstream of Colorado State land boundary in T51N/R13W/Sec 15 NMPM to Gunnison River	8.48	0.90	Y				X	X			X	R
Gunnison River Segment 1	Gunnison Forks to Currant Creek	7.86	5.06										
Gunnison River Segment 2	Upstream boundary to downstream boundary of BLM land in T15S/R95W/ Sec 5 6th PM	0.41	0.41	Y				X					R
Gunnison River Segment 3	Upstream UFO boundary in T15S/R97W/Sec 24 6th PM to boundary between UFO and Grand Junction Field Office	17.46	8.43	Y		X		X		X		X	R
Kelso Creek	Uncompahgre NF boundary to Escalante Creek	1.68	0.76	N									
Little Monitor Creek	Uncompahgre NF boundary to Monitor Creek	1.41	1.37	Y									

SEGMENT NAME	SEGMENT LOCATION	TOTAL SEGMENT LENGTH (IN MILES)	SEGMENT LENGTH ON BLM LANDS (IN MILES)	FREE-FLOWING DETERMINATION (Y OR N)	OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES[1]								CLASSIFICATION[2]
					Scenic	*Recreational*	*Geologic*	*Fish*	*Wildlife*	*Cultural*	*Historic*	*Vegetation*	
Madison Gulch	Upstream UFO boundary in T14S/R94W/Sec 16 6th PM to Currant Creek	0.37	0.37	N									
Monitor Creek	Uncompahgre NF boundary to Potter Creek	9.42	9.42	Y								X	W
Negro Creek	Headwaters in T13S/ R96W/Sec 34 6th PM to Tongue Creek	8.27	4.99	N									
North Fork Escalante Creek	Uncompahgre NF boundary to Escalante Creek	5.98	1.93	Y									
Oak Creek	Grand Mesa NF boundary to Tongue Creek	6.79	2.20	Y									
Peach Valley	GGNCA boundary to Gunnison River	8.11	0.89	N									
Potter Creek	Uncompahgre NF boundary to Roubideau Creek	9.82	9.82	Y								X	W
Rose Creek				Y	X								W

SEGMENT NAME	SEGMENT LOCATION	TOTAL SEGMENT LENGTH (IN MILES)	SEGMENT LENGTH ON BLM LANDS (IN MILES)	FREE-FLOWING DETERMINATION (Y OR N)	OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES[1]								CLASSIFICATION[2]
					Scenic	*Recreational*	*Geologic*	*Fish*	*Wildlife*	*Cultural*	*Historic*	*Vegetation*	
Roubideau Creek Segment 1	Uncompahgre NF boundary to downstream Camelback WSA boundary	10.74	10.00	Y		X			X	X		X	W
Roubideau Creek Segment 2	Downstream Camelback WSA boundary to upstream Colorado State land boundary in T15S/ R96W/Sec 32 6th PM	7.59	3.45	Y					X			X	S
Sulphur Gulch	Upstream UFO boundary in T14S/R94W/Sec 25 6th PM to Gunnison River	1.31	1.11	N									
West Fork Doughspoon Creek	Grand Mesa NF boundary to Doughspoon Creek	1.41	0.98	N									
HYDROLOGIC UNIT: UNCOMPAHGRE													
Alkali Creek	Upstream UFO boundary in T46N/R8W/Sec 27 NMPM to Ridgway Reservoir	2.54	0.81	Y									
Brook Creek	Upstream UFO boundary in T47N/R8W/Sec 26 NMPM to Billy Creek	0.53	0.12	Y									
Cedar Creek	Montrose Reservoir to Uncompahgre River	21.64	3.32	N									

SEGMENT NAME	SEGMENT LOCATION	TOTAL SEGMENT LENGTH (IN MILES)	SEGMENT LENGTH ON BLM LANDS (IN MILES)	FREE-FLOWING DETERMINATION (Y OR N)	OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES[1]								CLASSIFICATION[2]
					Scenic	*Recreational*	*Geologic*	*Fish*	*Wildlife*	*Cultural*	*Historic*	*Vegetation*	
Chaffee Gulch	Upstream UFO boundary in T47N/R8W/Sec 35 NMPM to Uncompahgre River	3.25	1.61	Y									
Cottonwood Creek	Upstream UFO boundary in T48N/R11W/Sec 34 NMPM to East Fork Dry Creek	0.95	0.39	Y									
Cow Creek	Uncompahgre NF boundary to Uncompahgre River	11.15	0.97	Y									
Cushman Creek	Uncompahgre NF boundary to Dry Creek	7.82	7.43	Y									
Dolores Creek	Upstream UFO boundary in T47N/R10W/Sec 24 NMPM to downstream UFO boundary in T48N/ R9W/Sec 33 NMPM	5.54	4.64	Y									
Dry Cedar Creek	Upstream UFO boundary in T48N/R8W/Sec 10 NMPM to downstream UFO boundary in T48N/ R9W/Sec 14 NMPM	2.57	1.05	N									
Dry Creek	Confluence of East and West Forks of Dry Creek to downstream UFO boundary in T49N/ R11W/Sec 1 NMPM	12.66	12.24	Y									
East Fork Dry Creek	Upstream UFO boundary in T47N/R11W/Sec 2 NMPM to Dry Creek	6.74	5.15	Y									

SEGMENT NAME	SEGMENT LOCATION	TOTAL SEGMENT LENGTH (IN MILES)	SEGMENT LENGTH ON BLM LANDS (IN MILES)	FREE-FLOWING DETERMINATION (Y OR N)	OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES[1]								CLASSIFICATION[2]
					Scenic	*Recreational*	*Geologic*	*Fish*	*Wildlife*	*Cultural*	*Historic*	*Vegetation*	
East Fork Horsefly Creek	Upstream UFO boundary in T46N/R9W/Sec 4 NMPM to Horsefly Creek	1.05	0.84	N									
East Fork Spring Creek	Uncompahgre NF boundary to Spring Creek	0.66	0.66	Y									
Flume Creek	Uncompahgre NF boundary to Cow Creek	1.36	0.82	N									
Happy Canyon Creek	Upstream UFO boundary in T47N/R10W/Sec 24 NMPM to downstream UFO boundary in T48N/ R9W/Sec 19 NMPM	7.52	4.94	Y									
Horsefly Creek	Confluence of East and West Forks of Horsefly Creek to Uncompahgre River	6.52	2.81	Y									
Martin Creek	Upstream UFO boundary in T46N/R7W/Sec 30 NMPM to Cow Creek	0.66	0.47	N									
McKenzie Creek	Upstream UFO boundary in T46N/R8W/Sec 7 NMPM to Uncompahgre River	1.49	1.34	Y									
Middle Fork Spring Creek	Uncompahgre NF boundary to Spring Creek	0.77	0.77	Y									

SEGMENT NAME	SEGMENT LOCATION	TOTAL SEGMENT LENGTH (IN MILES)	SEGMENT LENGTH ON BLM LANDS (IN MILES)	FREE-FLOWING DETERMINATION (Y OR N)	OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES[1]								CLASSIFICATION[2]
					Scenic	*Recreational*	*Geologic*	*Fish*	*Wildlife*	*Cultural*	*Historic*	*Vegetation*	
Montrose Arroyo	Headwaters to downstream UFO boundary in T48N/R9W/ Sec 1 NMPM	3.34	2.16	N									
Rawhide Gulch	Upstream UFO boundary in T49N/R7W/Sec 32 NMPM to Cedar Creek	0.48	0.48	N									
Spring Creek	Confluence of East and Middle Forks of Spring Creek to downstream UFO boundary in T48N/ R10W/Sec 27 NMPM	4.81	4.81	Y									
Uncompahgre River Segment 1	Upstream UFO boundary in T44N/R8W/Sec 13 NMPM to Ridgway Reservoir	13.32	0.51	Y									
Uncompahgre River segment 2	Outflow of Ridgway Reservoir to Horsefly Creek	16.60	0.28	Y									
Waterdog Basin	Upstream to downstream UFO boundary in T48N/ R8W/Sec 15 NMPM	1.01	0.77	N									
West Fork Dry Creek	Upstream UFO boundary in T48N/R12W/Sec 24 NMPM to Dry Creek	3.94	3.94	Y									
West Fork Horsefly Creek	Upstream UFO boundary in T46N/R9W/Sec 5 NMPM to Horsefly Creek	1.44	1.44	Y									

SEGMENT NAME	SEGMENT LOCATION	TOTAL SEGMENT LENGTH (IN MILES)	SEGMENT LENGTH ON BLM LANDS (IN MILES)	FREE-FLOWING DETERMINATION (Y OR N)	OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES[1]								CLASSIFICATION[2]
					Scenic	*Recreational*	*Geologic*	*Fish*	*Wildlife*	*Cultural*	*Historic*	*Vegetation*	
West Fork Spring Creek	Uncompahgre NF boundary to Spring Creek	1.01	0.74	Y									
HYDROLOGIC UNIT: NORTH FORK													
Anthracite Creek	Layton Gulch to Snowshoe Creek	2.83	0.20	Y									
Bear Creek	Upstream UFO boundary in T12S/R91W/Sec 36 6th PM to North Fork	3.28	1.45	Y									
Buzzard Creek	Upstream UFO boundary in T12S/R89W/Sec 19 6th PM to West Muddy Creek	0.37	0.36	Y									
Cottonwood Creek-Downstream of Paonia Reservoir	Gunnison NF boundary to North Fork	1.87	1.22	Y									
Cottonwood Creek (North of Crawford, CO)	Gunnison NF boundary to North Fork	11.93	2.02	Y									
Deadman Gulch	Upstream UFO boundary in T12S/R89W/Sec 19 6th PM to West Muddy Creek	0.25	0.13	Y									

SEGMENT NAME	SEGMENT LOCATION	TOTAL SEGMENT LENGTH (IN MILES)	SEGMENT LENGTH ON BLM LANDS (IN MILES)	FREE-FLOWING DETERMINATION (Y OR N)	OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES[1]								CLASSIFICATION[2]
					Scenic	*Recreational*	*Geologic*	*Fish*	*Wildlife*	*Cultural*	*Historic*	*Vegetation*	
Deep Creek	Gunnison NF boundary to Paonia Reservoir	2.55	0.58	Y				X					S
Dever Creek	Upstream UFO boundary in T13S/R93W/Sec 23 6th PM to Leroux Creek	3.34	1.00	Y									
East Fork Terror Creek	Reach beginning at upstream UFO boundary in T13S/R91W/Sec 5 6th PM to confluence with Muddy Creek West	0.05	0.05	Y									
East Muddy Creek	Upstream UFO boundary in T12S/R89W/Sec 20 6th PM to confluence with West Muddy creek	0.55	0.28	Y									
East Roatcap Creek	Upstream UFO/private land boundary in T13S/ R92W/Sec 14 6th PM to Roatcap Creek	1.81	1.10	Y									
Elk Creek	Gunnison NF boundary to downstream UFO boundary in T13S/R90W/ Sec 5 6th PM	0.77	0.75	Y									
Hawksnest Creek	Gunnison NF boundary to North Fork Gunnison River	1.87	1.75	Y									

SEGMENT NAME	SEGMENT LOCATION	TOTAL SEGMENT LENGTH (IN MILES)	SEGMENT LENGTH ON BLM LANDS (IN MILES)	FREE-FLOWING DETERMINATION (Y OR N)	OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES[1]								CLASSIFICATION[2]
					Scenic	*Recreational*	*Geologic*	*Fish*	*Wildlife*	*Cultural*	*Historic*	*Vegetation*	
Hubbard Creek	Gunnison NF boundary to North Fork Gunnison River	2.37	1.27	Y									
Jay Creek	Upstream UFO boundary in T13S/R92W/Sec 30 6th PM to North Fork Gunnison River	5.51	3.04	Y									
Lake Fork	Gunnison NF boundary to Minnesota Creek	0.31	0.26	Y									
Layton Gulch	Gunnison NF boundary to Anthracite Creek	2.24	1.43	Y									
Leroux Creek	Upstream UFO boundary in T13S/R93W/Sec 16 6th PM to downstream UFO boundary in T14S/R93W/ Sec 22 6th PM	7.03	1.86	Y									
Long Draw	Stream reach on UFO land in T13S/R92W/Sec 16 6th PM	1.03	1.01	Y									
Love Gulch	Headwaters to downstream UFO boundary in T14S/R92W/ Sec 4 6th PM	2.39	1.19	N									
McDonald Creek	Gunnison NF boundary to Cottonwood Creek	5.84	4.47	Y									

SEGMENT NAME	SEGMENT LOCATION	TOTAL SEGMENT LENGTH (IN MILES)	SEGMENT LENGTH ON BLM LANDS (IN MILES)	FREE-FLOWING DETERMINATION (Y OR N)	OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES[1]								CLASSIFICATION[2]
					Scenic	*Recreational*	*Geologic*	*Fish*	*Wildlife*	*Cultural*	*Historic*	*Vegetation*	
Minnesota Creek	Lake Fork to Dry Fork	2.02	0.16	Y									
Muddy Creek Segment 1	East and West Forks of Muddy Creek to Paonia Reservoir	1.34	0.38	Y									
Muddy Creek Segment 2	Outlet of Paonia Reservoir to Anthracite Creek	0.52	0.27	Y									
North Fork Gunnison River Segment 1	Anthracite Creek to Paonia, CO	15.74	2.22	Y									
North Fork Gunnison River Segment 2	East boundary of GGNCA to Gunnison Forks	1.11	0.96										
Raven Gulch	Gunnison NF boundary to North Fork Gunnison River	0.54	0.11	Y									
Reynolds Creek	Stream reach on UFO in T14S/R91W/Sec 21 6th PM	0.53	0.52	Y									
Roatcap Creek	East and West Forks of Roatcap Creek to downstream UFO boundary in T13S/R92W/ Sec 35 6th PM	1.61	1.18	Y									

SEGMENT NAME	SEGMENT LOCATION	TOTAL SEGMENT LENGTH (IN MILES)	SEGMENT LENGTH ON BLM LANDS (IN MILES)	FREE-FLOWING DETERMINATION (Y OR N)	OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES[1]								CLASSIFICATION[2]
					Scenic	*Recreational*	*Geologic*	*Fish*	*Wildlife*	*Cultural*	*Historic*	*Vegetation*	
Sams Creek	Gunnison NF boundary to Minnesota Creek	1.10	0.82	Y									
Sheep Creek	Grand Mesa NF boundary to Hubbard Creek	0.88	0.51	Y									
Stevens Gulch	Upstream UFO boundary in T13S/R92W/Sec 23 6th PM to downstream UFO boundary in T13S/R91W/ Sec 30 6th PM	2.58	1.92	Y									
Terror Creek	Confluence of East and West Terror Creeks to North Fork Gunnison	3.50	2.97	Y									
West Fork Terror Creek	Grand Mesa NF boundary to confluence with East Fork Terror Creek	1.21	0.47	Y				X					S
West Muddy Creek Segment 1	Upstream boundary to downstream UFO boundary in T12S/R90W/ Sec 12 6th PM	0.26	0.26	Y									
West Muddy Creek Segment 2	Upstream UFO boundary in T12S/R89W/Sec 19 6th PM to East Muddy Creek	0.45	0.39	Y									
West Roatcap Creek	Upstream UFO boundary in T13S/R92W/Sec 8 6th PM to Roatcap Creek	3.69	1.89	Y									

SEGMENT NAME	SEGMENT LOCATION	TOTAL SEGMENT LENGTH (IN MILES)	SEGMENT LENGTH ON BLM LANDS (IN MILES)	FREE-FLOWING DETERMINATION (Y OR N)	OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES[1]								CLASSIFICATION[2]
					Scenic	*Recreational*	*Geologic*	*Fish*	*Wildlife*	*Cultural*	*Historic*	*Vegetation*	
Williams Creek	Upstream UFO boundary in T12S/R89W/Sec 27 6th PM to Paonia Reservoir	0.96	0.96	Y									
HYDROLOGIC UNIT: SAN MIGUEL													
Atkinson Creek	West Atkinson Creek to San Miguel River	2.89	2.70	Y									
Beaver Creek	Uncompahgre NF boundary to San Miguel River	14.25	14.19	Y								X	S
Big Atkinson Creek	Uncompahgre NF boundary to San Miguel River to Atkinson Creek	5.91	5.91	N									
Big Bear Creek	Upstream UFO boundary in T42N/R10W/Sec 4 NMPM to San Miguel River	2.60	1.54	Y									
Big Bucktail Creek	Uncompahgre NF boundary to San Miguel River	3.55	3.20	N									
Big Johnson Creek	Uncompahgre NF boundary to confluence with Little Johnson Creek	0.50	0.49	N									
Broad Canyon	Upstream UFO boundary to Hamilton Creek	2.72	1.71	N									

SEGMENT NAME	SEGMENT LOCATION	TOTAL SEGMENT LENGTH (IN MILES)	SEGMENT LENGTH ON BLM LANDS (IN MILES)	FREE-FLOWING DETERMINATION (Y OR N)	OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES[1]								CLASSIFICATION[2]
					Scenic	*Recreational*	*Geologic*	*Fish*	*Wildlife*	*Cultural*	*Historic*	*Vegetation*	
Calamity Draw	Upstream UFO boundary in T46N/R16W/ Sec 11 NMPM to San Miguel River	0.65	0.61	N									
Campbell Creek	Uncompahgre NF boundary to Tabeguache Creek	6.20	4.99	Y									
Coal Canyon	Uncompahgre NF boundary to San Miguel River	10.33	7.06	N									
Cottonwood Creek	Uncompahgre NF boundary to San Miguel River	3.41	1.99	Y									
Craig Draw	Uncompahgre NF boundary to San Miguel River	2.14	1.23	N									
Dry Creek Segment 1	Upstream UFO boundary to downstream UFO boundary in T46N/R6W/ Sec 34 NMPM	10.49	10.42	Y	X		X						W
Dry Creek Segment 2	Upstream private land boundary in T46N/R16W/ Sec 34 NMPM to San Miguel River	3.17	1.64	Y									
Dry Park Draw	UFO land from headwaters to Uncompahgre NF boundary	0.65	0.61	N									

SEGMENT NAME	SEGMENT LOCATION	TOTAL SEGMENT LENGTH (IN MILES)	SEGMENT LENGTH ON BLM LANDS (IN MILES)	FREE-FLOWING DETERMINATION (Y OR N)	OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES[1]								CLASSIFICATION[2]
					Scenic	*Recreational*	*Geologic*	*Fish*	*Wildlife*	*Cultural*	*Historic*	*Vegetation*	
East Branch Shavano Creek	Uncompahgre NF boundary to Shavano Creek	1.09	0.50	Y									
Fall Creek	Uncompahgre NF boundary to San Miguel River	5.56	1.44	Y									
Forty-Seven Creek	Boundary of Tabeguache Area to Tabeguache Creek	1.40	1.40	Y									
Goat Creek	Upstream UFO boundary in T43N/R12W/Sec 28 NMPM to Beaver Creek	0.75	0.58	Y									
Good Enough Gulch	UFO land in T44N/R12W/ Sec 3 NMPM	0.10	0.10	N									
Hamilton Creek	Upstream UFO boundary in T44N/R14W/Sec 33 NMPM to Naturita Creek	16.16	11.17	N									
Horsefly Creek	Uncompahgre NF boundary to San Miguel River	1.12	1.12	Y									
Huff Gulch	Upstream UFO boundary in T44N/R12W NMPM to San Miguel River	0.67	0.54	N									

SEGMENT NAME	SEGMENT LOCATION	TOTAL SEGMENT LENGTH (IN MILES)	SEGMENT LENGTH ON BLM LANDS (IN MILES)	FREE-FLOWING DETERMINATION (Y OR N)	OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES[1]								CLASSIFICATION[2]
					Scenic	*Recreational*	*Geologic*	*Fish*	*Wildlife*	*Cultural*	*Historic*	*Vegetation*	
Hyatt Draw	Headwaters to confluence with San Miguel River	0.89	0.89	N									
Leopard Creek	Upstream UFO boundary in T44N/R11W/Sec 12 NMPM to San Miguel River	4.87	3.36	Y									
Little Johnson Creek	Uncompahgre NF boundary to confluence with Big Johnson Creek	0.86	0.85	N									
Little Maverick Draw	Upstream UFO boundary in T46N/R14W/Sec 19 NMPM to Maverick Draw	0.72	0.45	N									
Manly Draw	Upstream UFO boundary in T45N/R13W/Sec 18 NMPM to Naturita Creek	0.28	0.28	N									
Maverick Draw Segment 1	Upstream UFO boundary in T45N/R13W/Sec 6 NMPM to Little Maverick Draw	9.42	1.06	Y									
Maverick Draw Segment 2	Little Maverick Draw to Naturita Creek	2.05	1.69	Y									
McKenzie Creek	Uncompahgre NF boundary to San Miguel River	1.24	1.05	Y									

SEGMENT NAME	SEGMENT LOCATION	TOTAL SEGMENT LENGTH (IN MILES)	SEGMENT LENGTH ON BLM LANDS (IN MILES)	FREE-FLOWING DETERMINATION (Y OR N)	OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES[1]								CLASSIFICATION[2]
					Scenic	*Recreational*	*Geologic*	*Fish*	*Wildlife*	*Cultural*	*Historic*	*Vegetation*	
Muddy Creek	Upstream UFO boundary in T42N/R10W/Sec 4 NMPM to Big Bear Creek	0.45	0.40	Y									
Naturita Creek	Uncompahgre NF boundary to San Miguel River	24.97	9.99	Y				X					S
North Fork Cottonwood Creek	Uncompahgre NF boundary to Cottonwood Creek	0.04	0.04	N									
Saltado Creek	Upstream UFO boundary in T43N/R11W/Sec 18 NMPM to San Miguel River	5.56	4.14	Y								X	W
San Miguel River Segment 1	UFO boundary just downstream of Deep Creek to UFO boundary 1.25 miles (est.) downstream from Clay Creek	27.23	17.34	Y	X	X	X Paleontology		W		X	X	R
San Miguel River Segment 2	UFO boundary 1.25 miles (est.) downstream from Clay Creek to immediately above Horsefly Creek	4.01	3.64	Y	X	X			W			X	W
San Miguel River Segment 3	Immediately above Horsefly Creek to Colorado State Highway 90 Bridge at Piñon, CO	7.31	5.30	Y		X		X	W			X	S

SEGMENT NAME	SEGMENT LOCATION	TOTAL SEGMENT LENGTH (IN MILES)	SEGMENT LENGTH ON BLM LANDS (IN MILES)	FREE-FLOWING DETERMINATION (Y OR N)	OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES[1]								CLASSIFICATION[2]
					Scenic	*Recreational*	*Geologic*	*Fish*	*Wildlife*	*Cultural*	*Historic*	*Vegetation*	
San Miguel River Segment 4	Colorado State Highway 90 Bridge at Piñon, Colorado to Calamity Draw	16.34	1.62	Y									
San Miguel River Segment 5	Calamity Draw to Atkinson Creek	14.00	2.59	Y		X		X			X	X	R
San Miguel River Segment 6	Atkinson Creek to Dolores River	3.23	2.25	Y		X		X			X	X	R
Shavano Creek	Uncompahgre NF boundary to Tabeguache Creek	5.91	5.83	Y									
Specie Creek	Upstream UFO boundary in T43N/R11W/Sec 7 NMPM to San Miguel River	2.07	2.07	Y									
Spring Creek	Uncompahgre NF boundary to Tabeguache Creek	8.35	7.49	Y									
Summit Creek	Upstream UFO boundary in T43N/R10W/Sec 22 NMPM to San Miguel River	0.45	0.45	Y									
Tabeguache Creek Segment 1	Uncompahgre NF boundary to west boundary of Tabeguache Area	3.61	3.61	Y								X	W

SEGMENT NAME	SEGMENT LOCATION	TOTAL SEGMENT LENGTH (IN MILES)	SEGMENT LENGTH ON BLM LANDS (IN MILES)	FREE-FLOWING DETERMINATION (Y OR N)	OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES[1]								CLASSIFICATION[2]
					Scenic	*Recreational*	*Geologic*	*Fish*	*Wildlife*	*Cultural*	*Historic*	*Vegetation*	
Tabeguache Creek Segment 2	West boundary of Tabeguache Area to San Miguel River	11.57	7.89	Y						X		X	R
Turner Creek	Upstream UFO boundary in T43N/R12W/Sec 10 NMPM to Beaver Creek	1.00	1.00	Y									
Tuttle Draw	Upstream UFO boundary in T47N/R15W/ Sec 26 to San Miguel River	9.42	2.80	N									
West Atkinson Creek	Confluence of Little Johnson and Big Johnson Creeks to Atkinson Creek	5.68	5.68	Y									
Willow Creek	Upstream UFO boundary in T43N/R10W/Sec 26 NMPM to San Miguel River	0.35	0.35	Y									
HYDROLOGIC UNIT: LOWER DOLORES													
Lower Dolores River	San Miguel River to BLM Grand Junction Field Office boundary	10.53	6.93	Y	X	X	X	X	X				S
Mesa Creek	North and South Forks of Mesa Creek to Dolores River	2.08	0.95	Y									
North Fork Mesa Creek	UFO boundary to Mesa Creek	8.53	5.81	Y								X	S

SEGMENT NAME	SEGMENT LOCATION	TOTAL SEGMENT LENGTH (IN MILES)	SEGMENT LENGTH ON BLM LANDS (IN MILES)	FREE-FLOWING DETERMINATION (Y OR N)	OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES[1]								CLASSIFICATION[2]
					Scenic	*Recreational*	*Geologic*	*Fish*	*Wildlife*	*Cultural*	*Historic*	*Vegetation*	
Roc Creek	Manti-La Sal NF boundary to Dolores River	5.02	2.30	Y									
South Fork Mesa Creek	Uncompahgre NF boundary to Mesa Creek	11.48	11.18	Y									
HYDROLOGIC UNIT: UPPER DOLORES													
Dolores River Segment 1	UFO boundary downstream to Highway 90 Bridge at Bedrock, CO.		11.80 (UFO)	Y	X	X	X	X	X			X	W/R
Dolores River Segment 2	Highway 90 Bridge to San Miguel River	11.50	5.42	Y	X	X	X	X	X			X	R
Gregory Creek	Headwaters to Wild Steer Canyon	3.65	3.65	N									
Ice Lake Creek Segment 1	Headwaters of Ice Lake Creek to Knickpoint in T47N/R20W/Sec 11 NMPM	1.78	1.78	Y									
Ice Lake Creek Segment 2	Knickpoint in T47N/ R20W/Sec 11 NMPM to La Sal Creek	0.58	0.31		X								S
La Sal Creek Segment 1	Colorado State line to Sharp Canyon	4.82	0.62	Y				X				X	R

SEGMENT NAME	SEGMENT LOCATION	TOTAL SEGMENT LENGTH (IN MILES)	SEGMENT LENGTH ON BLM LANDS (IN MILES)	FREE-FLOWING DETERMINATION (Y OR N)	OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES[1]								CLASSIFICATION[2]
					Scenic	*Recreational*	*Geologic*	*Fish*	*Wildlife*	*Cultural*	*Historic*	*Vegetation*	
La Sal Creek Segment 2	Sharp Canyon to Dolores River Canyon WSA boundary	4.52	3.82	Y				X				X	S
La Sal Creek Segment 3	Dolores River Canyon WSA boundary to Dolores River	3.37	3.37	Y	X	X		X		X		X	W
Lion Canyon	UFO boundary to La Sal Creek	0.70	0.43	Y									
Lion Creek Segment 1	Headwaters of Lion Creek to knickpoint in T47N/ R20W/Sec 1 NMPM	1.95	1.95	N									
Lion Creek Segment 2	Knickpoint in T47N/ R20W/Sec 1 NMPM to La Sal Creek	1.57	1.26	Y								X	S
Spring Creek	Headwaters of Spring Creek to La Sal Creek	2.65	1.49	Y								X	R
West Paradox Creek	Reach on UFO land in T48N/R19W/Sec 29 NMPM	0.15	0.15	Y									

APPENDIX D - SCOPING COMMENTS

INTRODUCTION

The UFO conducted public scoping for the purpose of receiving comments on the Draft Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Report. Solicitation for comments began with a news release on December 15, 2009. (See Appendix E on page 151.) The news release requested feedback specifically on the Eligibility Phase of the Wild and Scenic Rivers review process, which consisted of determinations of ***outstandingly remarkable values*** and ***free-flowing*** and preliminary classifications of stream segments in the Uncompahgre planning area and the portion of the Dominguez-Escalante NCA within the UFO. The news release summarized the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, identified the larger river segments found eligible in the draft report, and described the subsequent Suitability Phase of the Wild and Scenic River review process.

The news release also stated that comments would be accepted through February 26, 2010 (later extended to March 29, 2010) and provided a web address for viewing and downloading the Draft Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Report: (http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/ufo/uncompahgre_rmp.html). In addition, the news release provided both a mailing address (Uncompahgre Field Office, Attn: RMP Revision, 2465 S. Townsend Ave., Montrose, CO 81401) and an email address (uformp@blm.gov) for submitting comments to the BLM.

Public comment on the Draft Wild and Scenic Eligibility Report was also solicited during the scoping period for the Uncompahgre RMP/EIS. This process was initiated on December 24, 2009, when the BLM mailed a newsletter announcing the start of the scoping period to more than 390 individuals from the public, agencies, and organizations that participated in past UFO activities and had been included on past UFO distribution lists. The newsletter provided the dates and venues for the original six scoping open houses held in the Towns of Hotchkiss, Delta, Montrose, Ridgway, Norwood, and Naturita, all communities with the Uncompahgre planning area. The newsletter also included an insert with a comment form for submitting scoping comments, and described the various methods for submitting comments, including dedicated e-mail and postal addresses.

In addition, a press release was posted on the RMP webpage (www.uformp.com) on January 5, 2010. This press release announced the scoping period for the Uncompahgre RMP/EIS process and provided information on the original six scoping open houses to be held in the Towns of Hotchkiss, Delta, Montrose, Ridgway, Norwood, and Naturita. It also described the various methods for submitting comments.

A newspaper advertisement was published in six local newspapers in December 2009 and January 2010, prior to the scoping meetings, Table D1. This newspaper advertisement announced the original six scoping open houses located in the Towns of Hotchkiss, Delta, Montrose, Ridgway, Norwood, and Naturita, all in Colorado.

Table 7-2 Newspaper Advertising for Scoping Meetings

NEWSPAPER	LOCATION (COLORADO)	DATE(S) ADVERTISEMENT APPEARED
Delta County Independent	Delta	• December 23, 2009 • January 6, 2010
Montrose Daily Press	Montrose	• December 30, 2009 • December 31, 2009 • January 6, 2010 • January 10, 2010
Norwood Post	Norwood	• December 30, 2009 • January 20, 2010
Ouray Plaindealer	Ouray	• January 8, 2010
Ridgway Sun	Ridgway	• January 6, 2010 • January 13, 2010
Telluride Daily Planet	Telluride	• January 20, 2010 • February 2, 2010

Six local newspapers are known to have published articles regarding the RMP revision and scoping period, Table D2.

Table 7-3 Newspaper Articles Discussing RMP Revision and Scoping

NEWSPAPER	DATE(S) ARTICLE(S) APPEARED
Delta County Independent	January 20 and 27, 2010
Montrose Daily Press	January 15 and February 3, 2010
Norwood Post	January 23, 2010
Ridgway Sun	January 13, 2010
San Miguel Basin Forum	January 21 and 28, 2010
Telluride Daily Planet	January 17 and February 2, 2010

The BLM hosted seven open houses to provide the public with opportunities to become involved, to learn about the project and the planning process, to meet the Uncompahgre RMP team members, and to offer comments. The seventh open house in Telluride was added in response to a special request from the San Miguel County Commissioners. The open houses were advertised via press release, newspaper advertisements, the project newsletter, the project Web site, and flyers posted in various towns throughout the planning area. A flyer announcing the dates and locations of the original six scoping open houses was posted in public locations in Delta, Hotchkiss, Montrose, Naturita, Norwood, Nucla, Paonia, and Redvale on January 8 and 12, 2010.

A BLM webpage was launched and has been updated regularly to provide the public with current information about the Uncompahgre RMP revision, including activities associated with the Wild and Scenic River study process. The webpage, available online at http://www.uformp.com, provides background information about the RMP revision, notices about public involvement opportunities, maps of and fact sheets about the planning area, newsletters, and current planning documents such as the Community Assessment and Federal Register Notice of Intent. The dates and locations of all seven scoping open houses were announced on the webpage. The webpage also provided a link for submitting comments during the scoping period, which included the Draft Wild and Scenic Eligibility Report.

Table 7-4 Scoping Open House Information

LOCATION	VENUE	DATE (2010)	NUMBER OF ATTENDEES	COMPLETED COMMENT FORMS
Hotchkiss, CO	Memorial Hall	January 12	99	11
Delta, CO	Bill Heddles Recreation Center	January 13	42	0
Montrose, CO	Montrose Pavilion	January 14	84	1
Ridgway, CO	Town Hall	January 19	41	3
Norwood, CO	Town Hall	January 20	26	0
Naturita, CO	Community Building	January 21	60	2
Telluride, CO	Miramonte Building	February 3	17	0
TOTAL			**369**	**17**

All scoping meetings were held in an open house format to encourage participants to discuss concerns and questions with BLM staff representatives. Copies of the first issue of the project newsletter, as well as blank scoping comment forms and a guide to providing substantive comments, were available at the sign-in station. A Microsoft PowerPoint presentation providing an overview of the RMP process and information about public involvement opportunities played continuously on a large screen. At every meeting, one of eight resource stations provided information regarding the Draft Wild and Scenic Rivers Eligibility Report and accepted public comments.

CONTENT ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

During the public comment period described in the preceding section, comments regarding the Wild and Scenic Rivers Draft Eligibility report were received from 87 individuals. Comments were overwhelmingly from communities within the vicinity of the planning area. Of those providing a home address, only twelve (14%) of the 87 respondents were from outside the planning area, including nine from within Colorado and three from other states (California, Texas and Wyoming).

Public comments received by the BLM were grouped according to issue. If several issues were addressed within one submission, each issue was tabulated as a separate comment. Multiple general

statements from the same commenter for the same segment(s) were counted as one comment. The 227 identified comments were further grouped into one of three categories according to type of issue: General, Eligibility, or Suitability. The comments are summarized below within these categories.

GENERAL ISSUES

General issues included those comments stating support for or opposition to the Wild and Scenic River eligibility study process or one or more of the draft eligible stream segments, without mentioning a specific eligibility determination. As shown in Table D4, 109 (48%) of the 227 comments received were identified as General Issues.

Table 7-5 Comments Regarding General Issues

GENERAL ISSUE COMMENTS		
Wild and Scenic River Study Process	Support for One or More Stream Segments	Opposition to One or More Stream Segments
14	54	41

Fourteen comments were received regarding the Wild and Scenic River Study Process:

- One expressing concern with the high cost of conducting the inventory.
- One stating that one year to inventory the streams was not long enough.
- One stating that the streams in the Dominguez-Escalante NCA have sufficient protection through NCA designation.
- One requesting that the BLM not rely on the Dominguez-Escalante NCA or wilderness designation to protect streams.
- One stating that the San Miguel River already has protection through ACEC designation.
- One stating that San Miguel Segment 3 is already sufficiently protected through the Cottonwood Creek Conservation Area.
- One expressing appreciation to the BLM UFO for accepting comments on the Draft Eligibility Report.
- One recommending Monitor Creek, Potter Creek, Rose Creek, Roubideau Creek, Big and Little Dominguez Creeks, the Dry Fork of Escalante, Cottonwood Creek (a tributary of Roubideau Creek), and Escalante Creek segments 1 and 2 as good candidates for alternative management plans.
- One requesting that the BLM keep all local water users informed of decisions made throughout the Wild and Scenic Rivers study process.

- One recommending that the Colorado instream flow program be considered for river value protection.
- One expressing appreciation for the BLM's willingness to collaborate, and recommending that the BLM continue to collaborate with outside groups during the Suitability Analysis.
- One recommending that the UFO build from the experience of the San Juan Public Lands Center, Dolores River Working Group and the Dolores River Dialogue.
- One requesting that the Colorado Water Conservation Board have the opportunity to provide additional comment on the Wild and Scenic Rivers study process as needed.
- One requesting that the UFO Eligibility Report include a map and supporting text for the Dolores River segment upstream of Bedrock, Colorado (evaluated for eligibility by the San Juan Public Lands Center).

Fifty-four general comments were received expressing support for carrying forward one or more eligible segments in the Wild and Scenic Rivers study process:

- Seven expressing support for all eligible streams in the draft report.
- One expressing support for all eligible streams in the North Fork of the Gunnison drainage.
- Twelve expressing support for the Dolores River.
- Eleven expressing support for the San Miguel River.
- Other stream segments with five or fewer comments of general support include: Tabeguache Creek, Beaver Creek, Dry Creek (tributary to the San Miguel River), Fall Creek, Naturita Creek, Saltado Creek, Cottonwood Creek (tributary to Roubideau Creek), Potter Creek, Monitor Creek, Roubideau Creek segments 1 and 2, Escalante Creek segments 1 and 2, the Gunnison River segments 2 and 3, Horsefly Creek (tributary to the San Miguel River), La Sal Creek, Lion Creek, Roc Creek, and the North Fork of the Gunnison River.

Forty-one general comments were received expressing opposition to carrying forward one or more eligible segments in the Wild and Scenic Rivers review process:

- Two expressing opposition to carrying forward any streams identified as eligible in the draft report.
- Sixteen expressing opposition to carrying forward the San Miguel River.
- Seven expressing opposition to carrying forward Escalante Creek segments 1 and 2.
- Six expressing opposition to carrying forward segments on the Gunnison River.
- Other segments with five or fewer comments expressing opposition to being carried forward include: Roubideau Creek, Naturita Creek, and stream segments in the West End of Montrose County.

ELIGIBILITY ISSUES

The Eligibility Issue category includes all comments that pertain to the Outstandingly Remarkable Value (ORV) and free-flowing determinations of draft eligible segments. Comments on both stream segment delineation, number of segments, and the preliminary classification of draft eligible segments (Wild, Scenic, and Recreational) were also included as Eligibility Issues. Of the total comments received, 35 (15%) were related to eligibility. (See Table D5 below.)

Table 7-6 Comments Regarding Eligibility Issues

ELIGIBILITY ISSUE COMMENTS				
Wild, Scenic, Recreation Preliminary Classification	Outstandingly Remarkable Values	Free-Flowing Stream Segment Determination	Stream Segment Delineation	Number of Eligible Stream Segments
5	15	6	6	3

Five comments were received regarding preliminary stream classifications:

- Two stating that draft eligible streams on the Miller Ranch do not meet classification definitions and should be withdrawn from eligibility.
- One opposing the classifications and interim stream management standards.
- One stating that the preliminary classification of ***Scenic*** for Ice Lake Creek is inconsistent with historic mining impacts.
- One stating that the preliminary classification of ***Recreational*** for Spring Creek is in conflict with historic mining impacts.

Fifteen comments were received regarding ORVs:

- One stating that the CNHP global ranking for vegetation is not an appropriate measure for an ORV.
- One stating that San Miguel River Segment 3 has no outstanding values.
- One questioning the presence of native fish in Naturita Creek.
- One questioning why Lion Creek was assigned a preliminary classification of ***Scenic*** when the ORV is Vegetation.
- One questioning whether the vegetation and geology along Dolores Segment 2 are unique.
- Two disagreeing with the ORV determinations for Dry Fork of Escalante Segments 1 and 2 and Escalante Creek Segment 2.

- One disagreeing with the ORV determinations for all draft eligible segments on the Dry Fork of Escalante Creek, Escalante Creek, and the Gunnison River.
- Three stating that the riparian vegetation along Escalante Creek Segment 2 is very common and expressing doubt that either the Eastwood's monkeyflower *(Mimulus eastwoodiae)* or the Colorado hookless cactus *(Sclerocactus glaucus)* occur along this reach.
- One questioning how the peregrine falcon *(Falco peregrinus)* pertains to the Wildlife ORV.
- One recommending that the ORVs along both Escalante and Roubideau Creeks be protected.
- One recommending that wilderness values be added to Cottonwood Creek (a tributary to Roubideau Creek) for the Wild and Scenic evaluation.
- One stating that the native fishes identified as a Wildlife ORV for La Sal Creek Segment 1 do not impart the characteristics necessary for a preliminary classification of ***Recreational***.

Six comments were received pertaining to the free-flowing stream determinations:

- One stating that Dry Creek (a tributary of the San Miguel River) is dry 90% of the time (rather than intermittent) and should not be eligible.
- One stating that, due to water rights and an unpredictable flow regime, Naturita Creek has dried up 11 out of the last 19 years, and should not be considered free-flowing or eligible.
- One stating that the Dry Fork of Escalante Creek flows only ten days per year and should not be eligible.
- Two stating that, due to rip rap, agricultural use, and the number and size of water diversions, Escalante Creek segments 1 and 2 and Gunnison River Segment 3 should not be eligible.
- One stating that, due to the presence of significant upstream water control facilities (of the Aspinall Unit) both Gunnison River segments 1 and 2 should not be eligible.

Six comments were received pertaining to stream segment delineation:

- One stating that the Dry Creek segment (a tributary of the San Miguel River) is too long, given that the geologic anticline is only two miles.
- One questioning why the upper terminus of Gunnison River segment 3 terminates at the boundary with state lands.
- Two expressing concern with how the BLM calculated ownership along Gunnison River Segment 3.
- One recommending that exceptionally short, and in some cases not contiguous, river segments (identified as Gunnison River Segment 2, Escalante Creek Segments 1 and 2, Deep Creek, West Fork of Terror Creek, Dry Fork of Escalante Creek Segment 2, Rose Creek, and North Fork of Mesa Creek) be removed from eligibility.

- One stating the need to show Bureau of Reclamation, Section 5a withdrawn lands on stream segment maps.

Three comments were received regarding the number of eligible segments:

- One stating that too few of the 174 streams inventoried were found to be eligible.
- One requesting to review the inventory data on stream segments determined to be not eligible.
- One questioning why no eligible stream segments were located in either the Uncompahgre or Upper Gunnison river basins.

SUITABILITY ISSUES

Suitability issues include all comments pertaining to the manageability of stream segments. Thirty-seven percent of the total comments received were categorized as pertaining to suitability and will be carried forward to the subsequent Suitability Analysis, which is being conducted as part of the UFO RMP revision. (See Table D6.) Suitability issues pertaining to river segments within the Dominguez-Escalante NCA will be addressed during development of the RMP for the NCA.

The most common suitability themes included concerns regarding:

- How designation of a river segment could affect future uses within the river corridor.
- How private and other non-BLM lands within a river corridor could be affected by WSR designation (including the degree of existing development within some corridors).
- Existing water rights and the need for instream flows.
- Mining rights within WSR-designated river corridors.
- Potential economic impacts to local communities from WSR designation.

Table 7-7 Comments Regarding Suitability Issues

SUITABILITY ISSUE COMMENTS				
Impacts to Land Uses Resulting from WSR Designation	Impacts to Private and Non- BLM Land and Existing Development	Impacts on Water Rights and Projects from WSR Designation	Impacts to Mining Rights from WSR Designation	Local Economic Impacts from WSR Designation
7	29	13	32	2

Seven comments were received regarding changes in land use along WSR-designated rivers:

- One expressing general concern that designated rivers would serve a select few users groups, and one expressing similar concern specifically regarding the San Miguel River from Horsefly Creek to Pinon.

- Four expressing concerned about increased recreation use (and associated impacts) on the Gunnison River and Escalante Creeks if designated.
- One recommending that oil and gas development be banned from the Dolores River if designated.
- One recommending that no more dams or major water diversions be constructed on the Gunnison River if designated.

29 comments were received regarding private and non-BLM land issues:

- Fifteen stating that the level of existing development, water diversions, and fragmented land status along the Dry Fork of Escalante Creek, Escalante Creek, and the Gunnison River is too great for these to remain eligible.
- One stating that there is too much private land along La Sal Creek.
- One stating a need to retain road access to the Cashen Mine if La Sal Creek is designated.
- One stating a need to retain access along the North Fork of Mesa Creek if the creek is designated.
- Three expressing concern that there is too much private land and existing development with potential for condemnation if Naturita Creek is designated.
- Five opposing designation of the San Miguel River due to impacts to private property rights, instream flow water rights, and existing development.
- Three expressing general concern for impacts to private lands, including the right to graze livestock and other historic uses.

Thirteen comments were received regarding water rights or water projects:

- All expressing concern for impacts to existing water rights or water projects along various waterways, including the San Miguel River (3 comments), and the Dry Fork of Escalante Creek, Escalante Creek, and the Gunnison River (3 comments).

32 comments were received regarding mining rights:

- Two expressing concern for potential impacts to local economies.
- Eleven expressing concern specifically for the San Miguel River, while the remainder did not specify a river segment.

The full text of scoping comments is available for public review at the BLM Uncompahgre Field Office headquarters in Montrose, Colorado. Phone (970) 240-5300 for more information.

APPENDIX E - DRAFT ELIGIBILITY REPORT PRESS RELEASE

United States Department of the Interior
Grand Junction Field Office

Bureau of Land Management
http://www.co.blm.gov

2815 H Road
Grand Junction, CO 81506

BLM News Release

Contact: Erin Curtis, Public Affairs Specialist 970-244-3097

December 15, 2009

Draft Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Report Available for the BLM Uncompahgre Planning Area

Montrose, Colo. – The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is seeking public comments on a draft Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Report conducted by the Uncompahgre Field Office.

The report is the first step in a Wild and Scenic River evaluation for the 900,000-acre field office, which is being conducted as the field office revises the Uncompahgre Resource Management Plan. The Draft Eligibility Report provides an inventory of river and stream segments on BLM-administered lands, and identifies those segments that meet the eligibility criteria necessary for federal Wild and Scenic River consideration.

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act was passed in 1968 to preserve selected rivers or sections in their free-flowing condition in order to protect "the water quality of such rivers and to fulfill other vital national conservation purposes." To be eligible under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, a river or stream segment must possess one or more "outstandingly remarkable values," have sufficient water quality to support those values, and be "free-flowing." The BLM evaluated 174 river and stream segments and found 35 to be eligible.

The draft report identifies five segments of the San Miguel River (approximately 55 miles), two segments of the Dolores River (approximately 20 miles), and two segments of the Gunnison River (approximately 18 miles) as eligible. Eligibility review does not take into account potentially conflicting uses or the manageability of a river segment, which will be addressed in the upcoming *suitability* phase.

At this stage, the BLM is specifically looking for information regarding free-flowing condition and outstandingly remarkable values, including vegetation, wildlife, cultural, recreation, hydrologic, geologic, and scenic. Public comments on the draft report will be accepted through Feb. 26. The report is available at **http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/ufo/uncompahgre_rmp.html**.

Comments can be emailed to uformp@blm.gov or mailed to the Uncompahgre Field Office, Attn: RMP Revision, 2645 S. Townsend Ave., Montrose, CO 81401.

"Once the eligibility study has been finalized, we'll be working with stakeholders to look at each eligible segment to determine whether or not it is suitable for Wild and Scenic River consideration," said Uncompahgre Field Manager Barb Sharrow. "Public involvement in this process is essential."

Draft Eligibility Report Press Release (continued)

The suitability study will be included in the Resource Management Plan revision, which will analyze a range of possible recommendations. The BLM may or may not actively recommend suitable segments for Wild and Scenic River designation, based on input from stakeholders and the public.

River segments determined to be eligible are afforded interim protective management by the BLM until a suitability study is completed. The Resource Management Plan revision and suitability analysis is scheduled to be completed in 2013.

The Cache La Poudre River is currently the only river in Colorado with segments included in the Wild and Scenic River system. For more information on Wild and Scenic Rivers, visit **http://www.nps.gov/rivers/.**

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